



I was  
killed.

My  
little  
brother  
and  
sister.  
Their  
bones  
spread  
underneath  
the desk.

Born  
beneath  
the cold  
rocks.

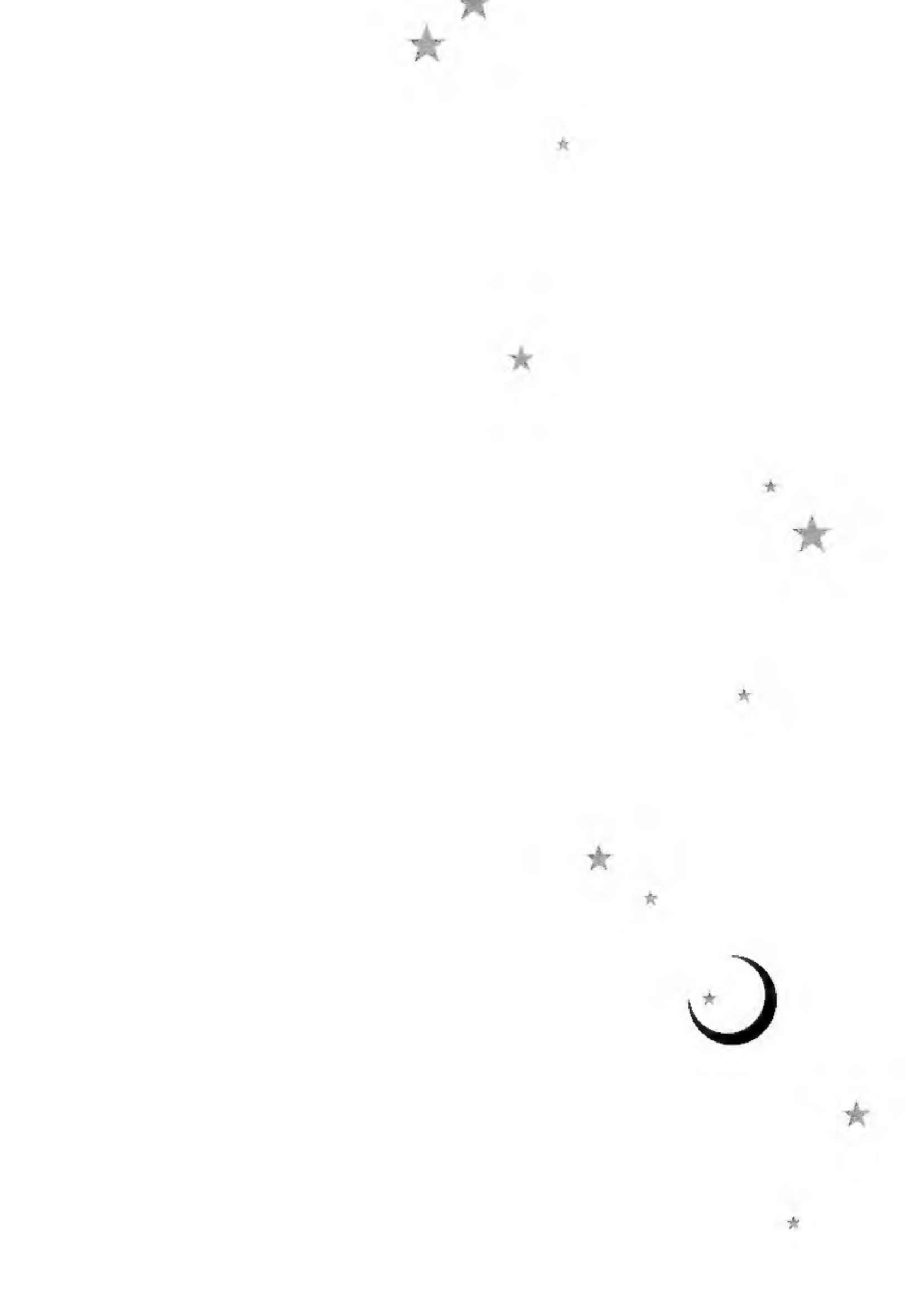
WHY ARE  
BIRDS REBORN  
FROM BONES?

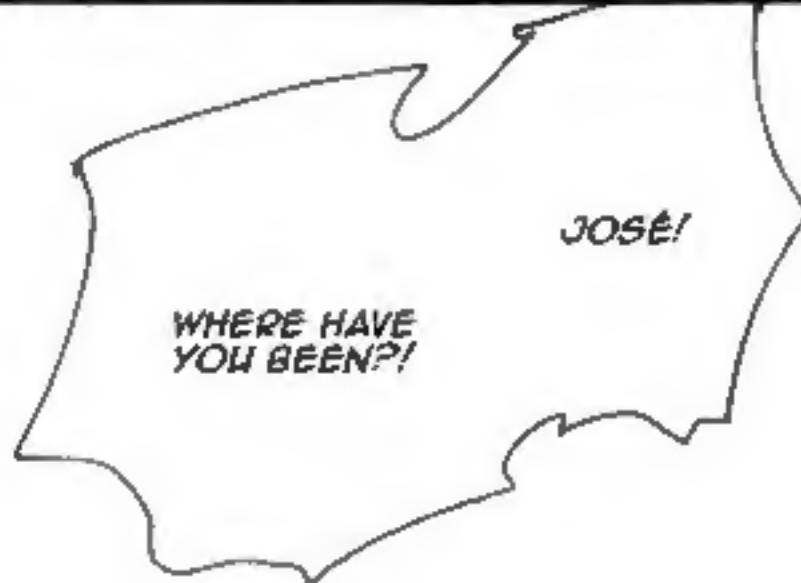
DESPITE THE  
GRIEVANCES I  
MAY HAVE, I'M  
STILL SINGING.



The Bird That Can't Sing











THOSE  
SHOES...

I WASN'T.

I WAS  
SKETCHING THE  
FLOWERS AS  
I WAS MAKING  
MY ROUNDS.

WON'T YOU  
PLEASE STOP  
TRYING TO HELP  
THE PEASANTS?



DRAWING  
OUTSIDE  
LIKE THAT  
IS EMBAR-  
RASSING.

IT'S  
SOMETHING  
A YOUNG GIRL  
WOULD DO AS  
A HOBBY.



THAT  
PLACE IN  
OUR TOWN  
WITH THE  
GRAVEYARD  
AND THE  
JUNIPER  
TREE?

WHAT?  
OH.



BUT THIS ISN'T  
WHY I WANTED  
TO SPEAK TO YOU.  
ON THE BORDER  
WITH THE TOWN  
TO THE WEST...





I'M TRYING  
TO SAY, WON'T  
YOU PLEASE GO  
TAKE A LOOK?



WHY IS THERE  
SUCH A VILE  
PERSON LIVING  
ON OUR LAND?

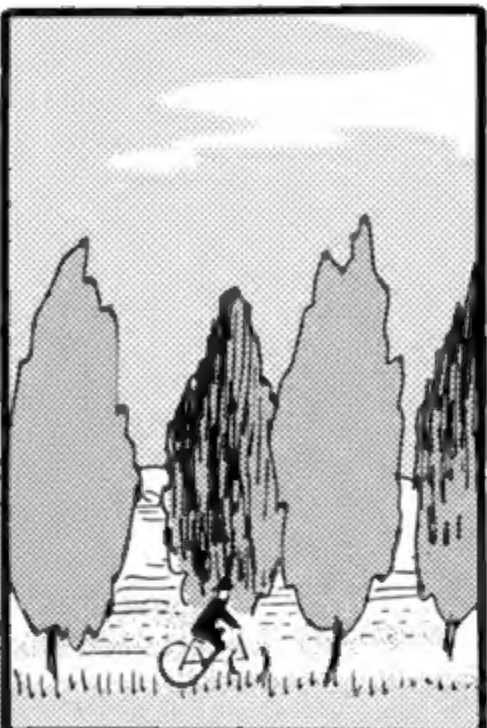
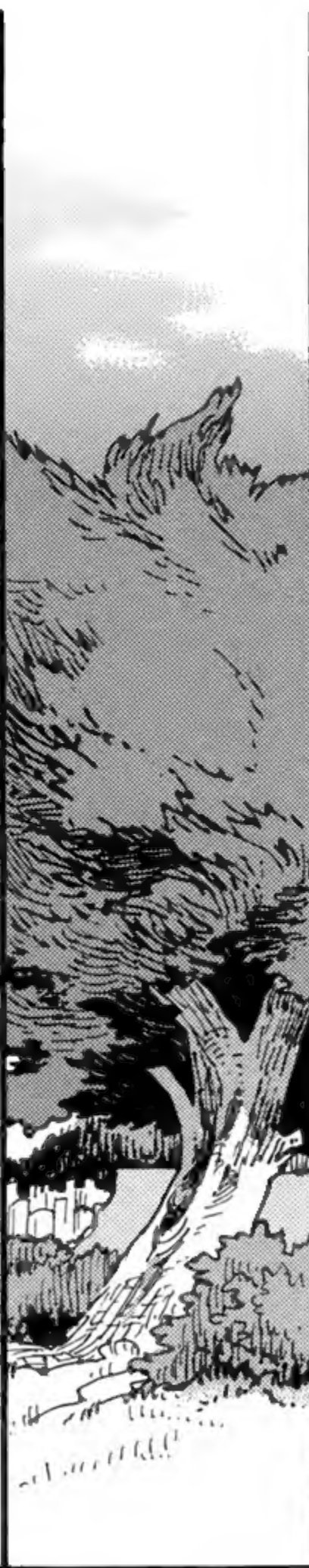


WELL...  
BECAUSE  
THAT'S WHERE  
THE CABIN IS,  
I SUPPOSE?



I... DON'T  
THINK YOU  
UNDERSTAND  
ME.







THE  
MURDER-  
ER'S...



I WONDER  
IF IT'D BE  
BEST TO TELL  
THE PERSON  
LIVING HERE  
IN ADVANCE.



HMP?



E-  
EXCUSE  
ME.





IF YOU  
BURY A BODY  
UNDERNEATH A  
JUNIPER TREE  
IT WILL COME  
BACK TO LIFE

R  
U  
S  
T  
L  
E

R  
U  
S  
T  
L  
E

I REMEMBER  
IN FAIRY TALES  
THEY SAY

WHY  
ARE THEY  
ALWAYS NEAR  
GRAVES ?

Caww

R  
U  
S  
T  
L  
E





ARTHUR,  
YOU HAVE A  
CUSTOMER

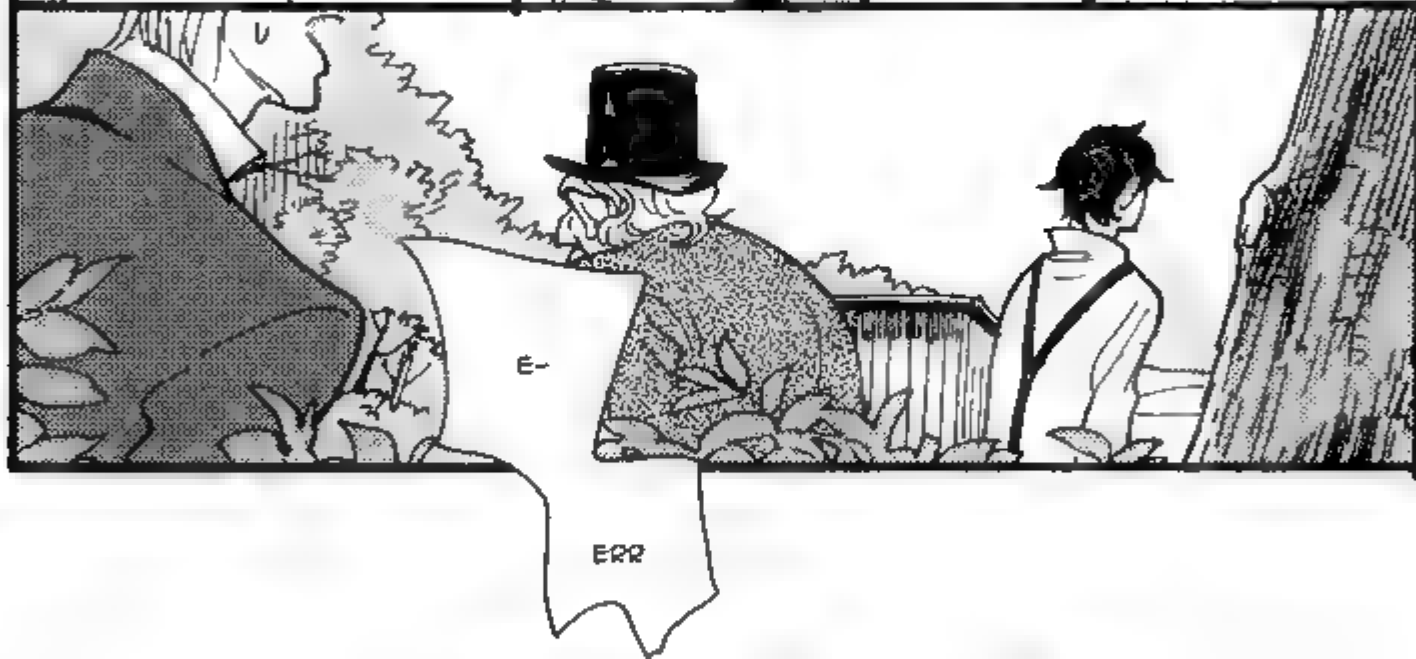
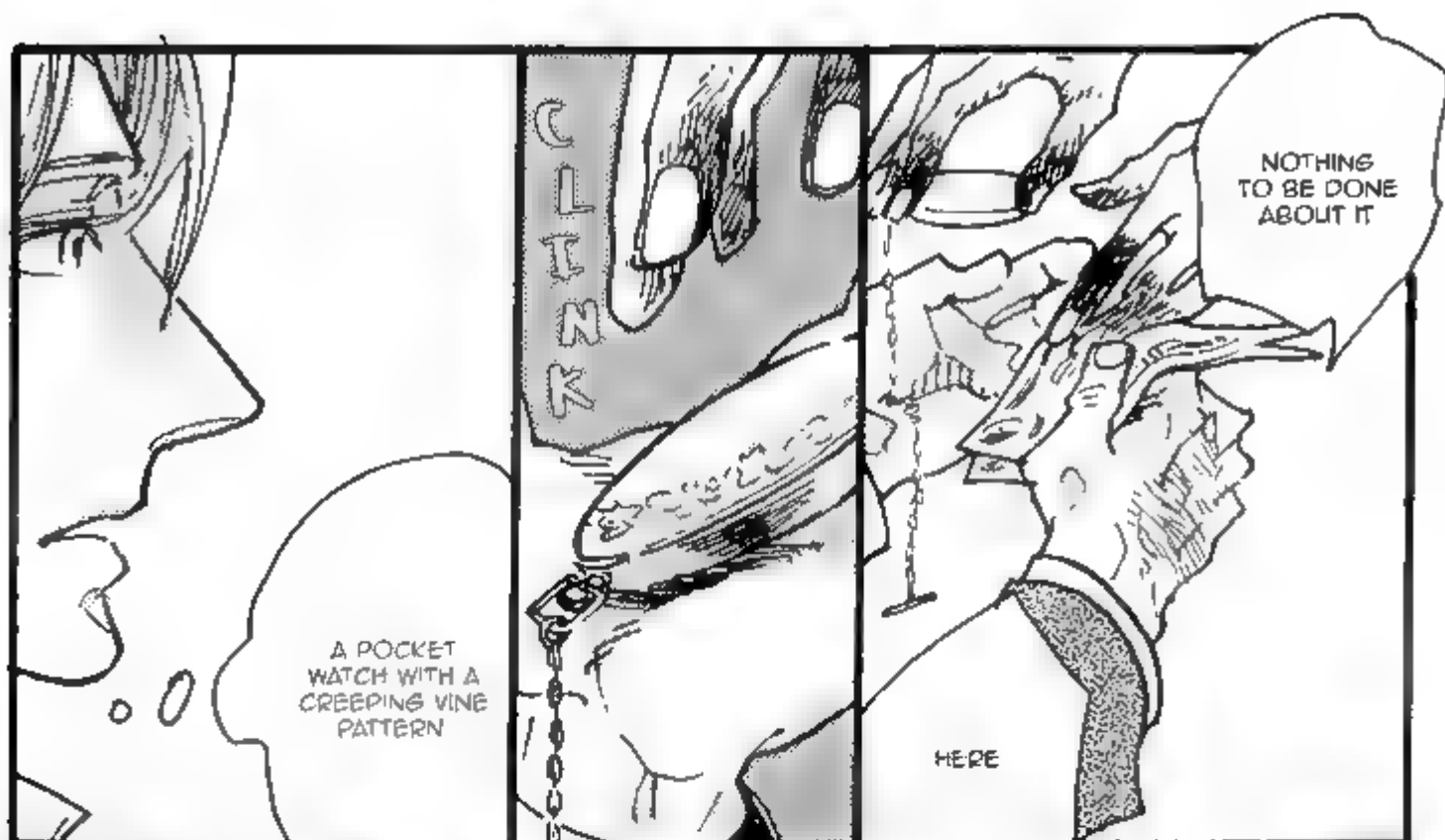


RUSTLE

DON'T  
TRY TO  
TRICK  
ME

I TOLD YOU,  
I DON'T ACCEPT  
ANYTHING BUT  
MONEY AS  
PAYMENT









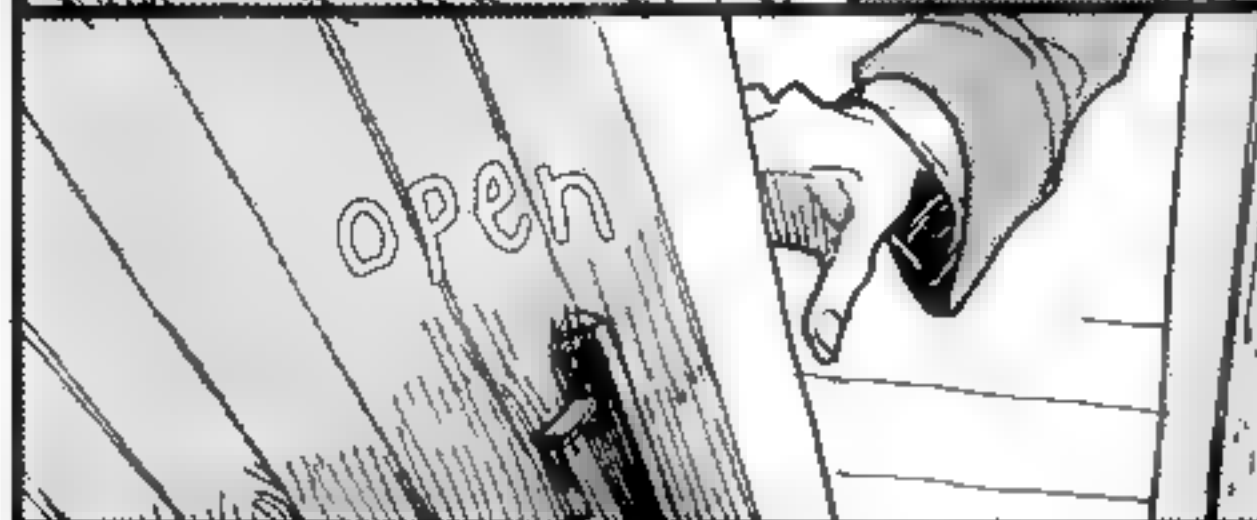




YOU'RE  
AMAZING



grab



open



HEY,  
ARTHUR!

CARMINE,  
VIRIDIAN,

OIL.

BOY & 3  
PÂTE

VEGETABLES  
AND WINE.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

I SAW A  
SHINY BOTTLE  
BACK HERE-

SORRY  
FOR ALWAYS  
TROUBLING  
YOU

COME  
NOW.



YOU CAN  
GIVE ME A  
PAINTING

LIKE THE ONE  
OF THE JUNIPER  
TREE FOR MY  
BIRTHDAY



HERE'S YOUR  
CHANGE

YOU CAN  
KEEP IT

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?



WELL.

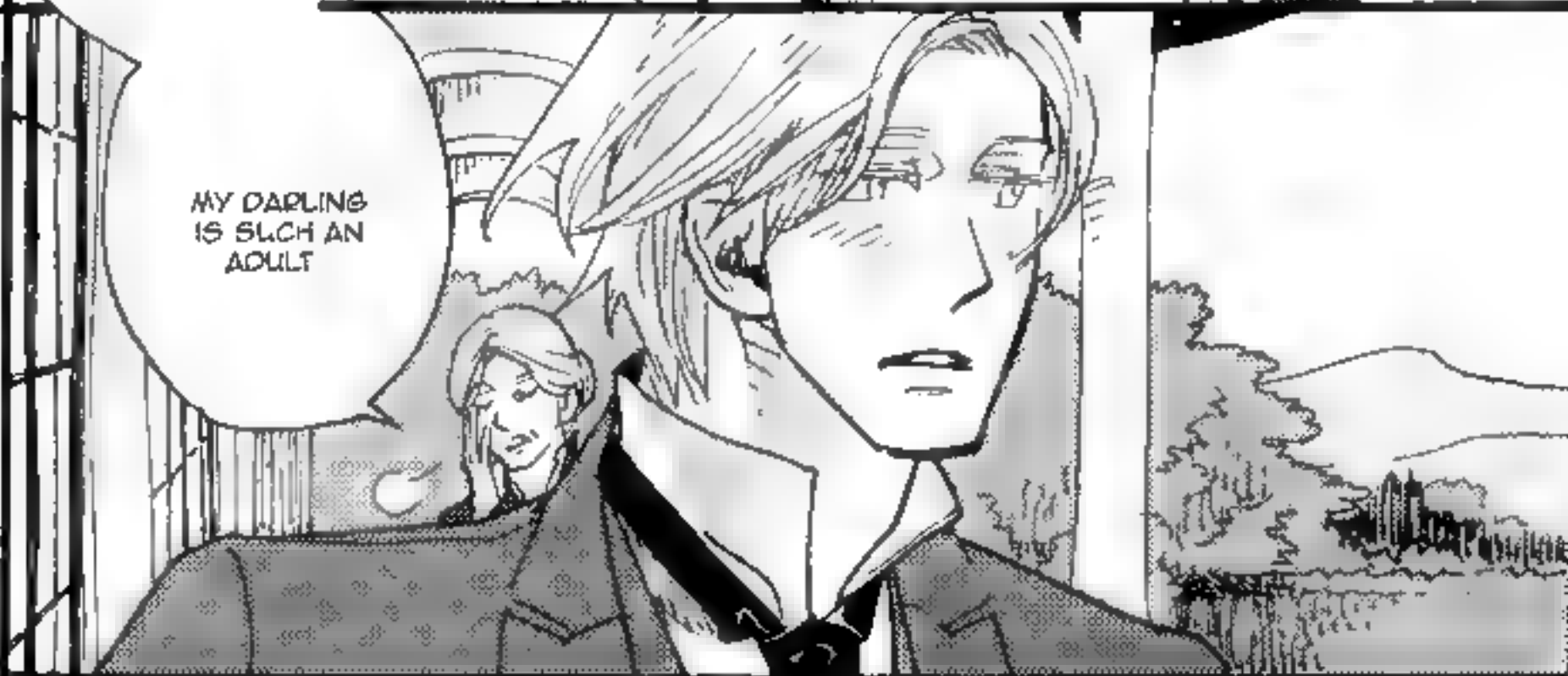
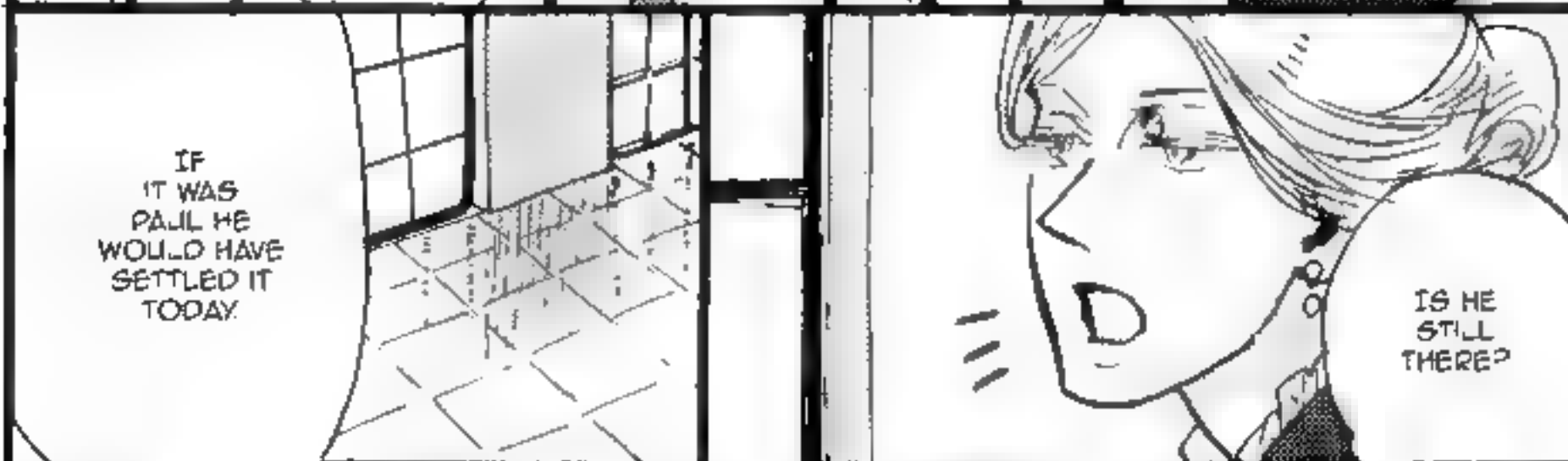
WHO'S  
THIS?

EH!

I'm  
jealous.



JOSE,









I ALWAYS  
FACED  
OPPOSITION.

EVEN SO,  
I STILL  
WANTED  
TO DRAW



I ALSO HAD  
SOMETHING LIKE  
A MODEL TO  
LEARN FROM.

SINCE I WAS  
YOUNG I WOULD  
SNEAK OUT TO SEE  
ART EXHIBITS




IT'S  
NOT

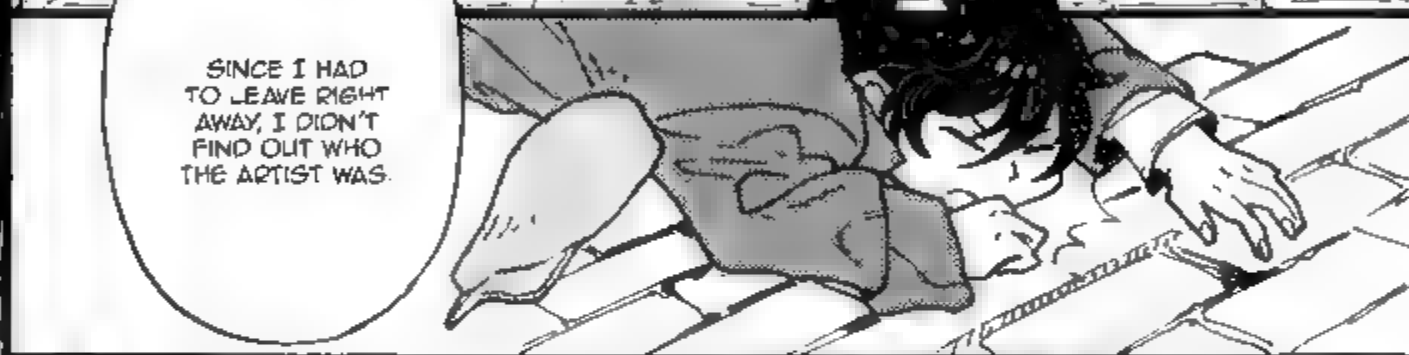


THIS MUST  
SOUND LIKE A  
PRETTY BAD  
EXCUSE

ANYWAY, YOU  
DIDN'T STUDY  
AND YOU CAN  
PAINT SO WELL





SEEING THAT  
PAINTING OF  
THE SEA WAS  
THE FIRST.



SINCE I HAD  
TO LEAVE RIGHT  
AWAY, I DIDN'T  
FIND OUT WHO  
THE ARTIST WAS.



PERHAPS,



IT WAS SIMILAR  
TO THE COLOUR  
OF YOUR EYES.



I ALWAYS  
ASK PAUL  
TO DO MY  
SHOPPING

M-  
M-MAYBE IF  
YOU GO OUTSIDE  
THIS TOWN YOU  
MIGHT BE ABLE  
TO FIND.

WHAT,  
BUT-

I DON'T  
LEAVE TOWN.

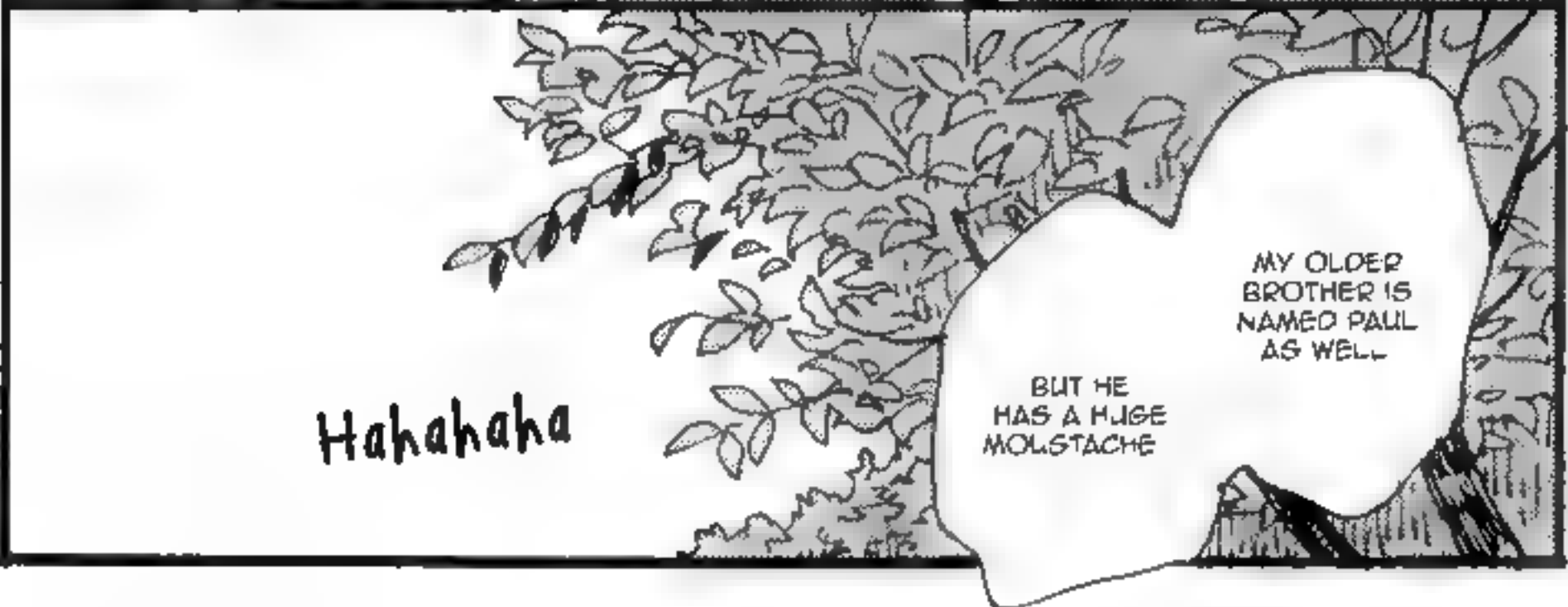


HE'S  
VERY KIND.

HE JUST LOST  
HIS FATHER AND  
IS STILL GRIEVING,  
YET HE STILL  
HELPS ME OUT



tremble

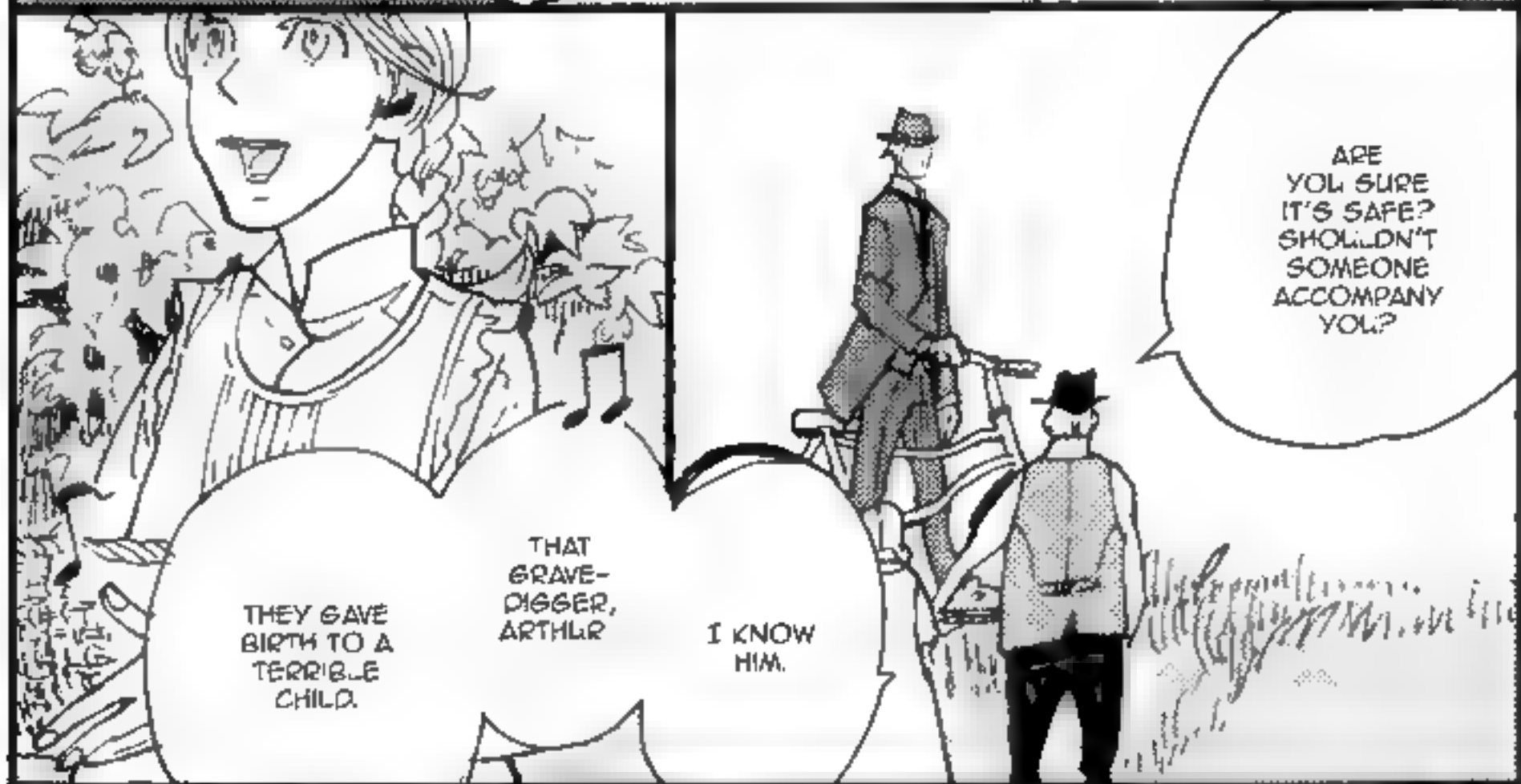


Hahahaha


MY OLDER  
BROTHER IS  
NAMED PAUL  
AS WELL

BUT HE  
HAS A HUGE  
MUSTACHE










HE'S TOO  
CHEAP TO EVER  
TIP HIS DRIVER

AND THERE'S  
A WHITE BIRD  
IN THE SKY


HERE'S  
A FLOWER  
THAT HAS  
BLOOMED



IT GIVES ME A  
MYSTERIOUS KIND  
OF FEELING



MY OLD  
MAN MADE ME  
PAINT THAT  
JUNIPER TREE




BUT IF YOU  
LEFT THIS TOWN  
YOU COULD FIND  
OTHER JOBS.



mumble

YOU  
REALLY DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.



I'M LIVING  
FROM JOB TO  
JOB, I CAN'T  
SAVE UP ANY  
MONEY.



I FEEL  
LIKE THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
SPECIAL ABOUT  
THIS PAINTING

ARTHUR

THERE'S A  
PAINTING OF THE  
SEA THAT HAS  
ARRIVED IN TOWN!

WHAT?



SO THIS BOY  
MUST KNOW  
THE STORY

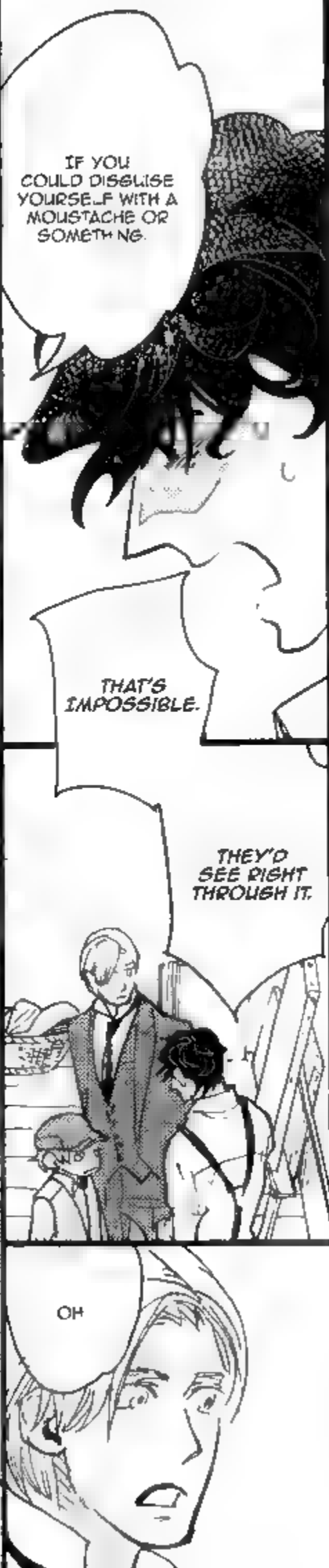
BUT I  
CAN'T  
LEAVE...

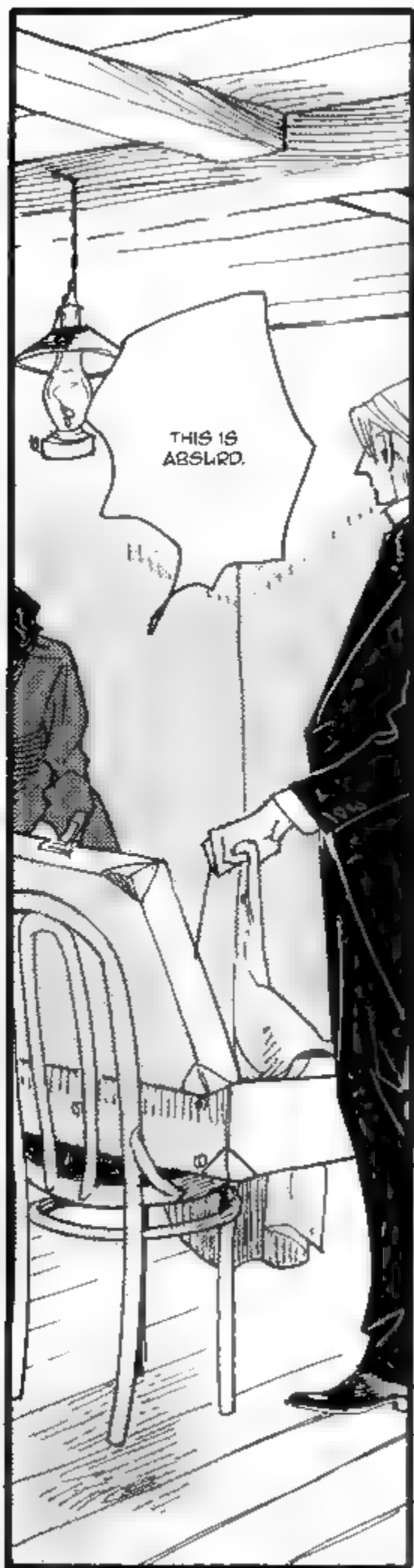
IT'LL  
BE OKAY

IT  
COULD BE  
THE PAINTING  
YOU WERE  
TALKING  
ABOUT

IT WAS  
HERE TEN  
YEARS  
AGO.



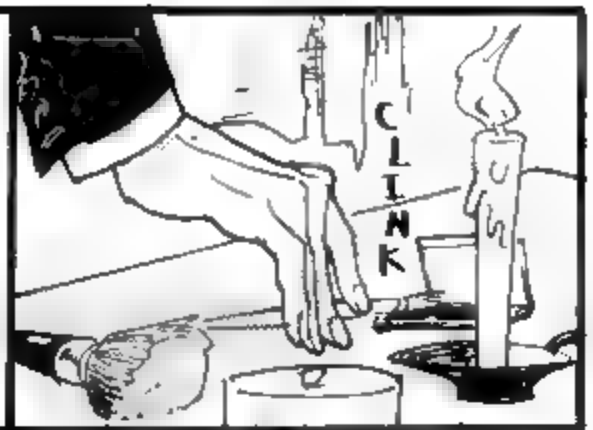








UNTIL



CLINK



NO ONE  
OTHER THAN  
PAUL SHOULD  
RECOGNIZE  
YOU.

THE  
AFTERNOON,  
I THINK



IT'S THE  
OPPOSITE  
YOU'RE  
BEAUTIFUL.


I'M TURNING  
INTO SOMETHING  
HIDEOUS.








THE CITY IS  
BEAUTIFUL  
AT NIGHT.



YOUR  
PACE 'S  
SLOW,




AND YOU'VE  
BEEN KEEPING  
YOUR HEAD  
LOW. LOOK UP

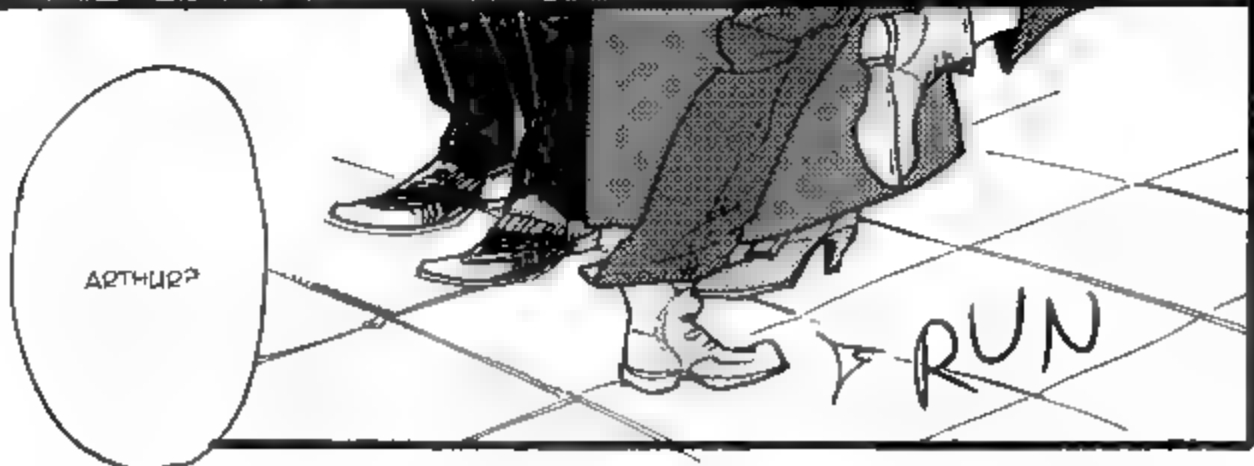


hold

TAKE A  
LOOK



I WANT  
TO SEE IT  
WITH YOU









Hey,  
is that  
Arthur?

The  
grave-  
digger?



EVERYONE IS  
ALWAYS SAYING  
HORRIBLE THINGS,  
YET I WAS THE  
ONLY WHO  
BELIEVED YOU.

LIAR.



Shatter

YOU'RE  
A LIAR!

YOU...


YOU WERE  
SEEN RUNNING  
AWAY WITH ME,  
YOU KNOW.

SO IT'S  
ALRIGHT

IT'S NOT  
TRUE, RIGHT?

BUT I  
HELPED HIM  
IN EXCHANGE  
FOR MONEY.

LET'S  
GO BACK



IF YOU  
PROPERLY  
EXPLAIN IT  
THEN



I CAN'T



AT THIS  
POINT,

I'M GOING  
TO DIE HERE  
JUST LIKE  
THEY DID.

JUST LIKE  
THAT TIME,  
NO ONE WILL  
BELIEVE ME



.....



PERHAPS,



YOUR FATHER  
MIGHT HAVE  
PLACED SOME  
KIND OF HIDDEN  
MEANING WITHIN  
THE PAINTING



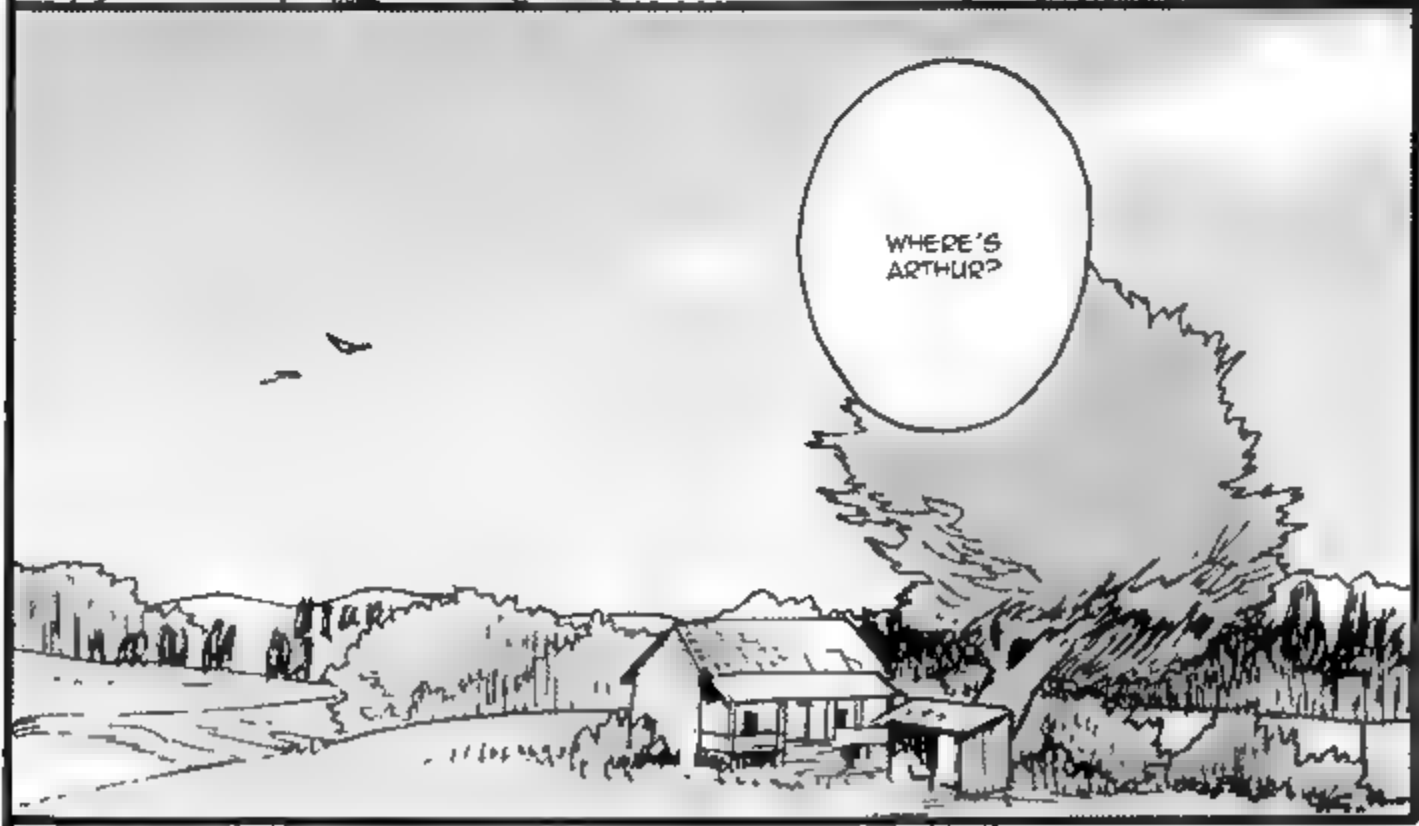
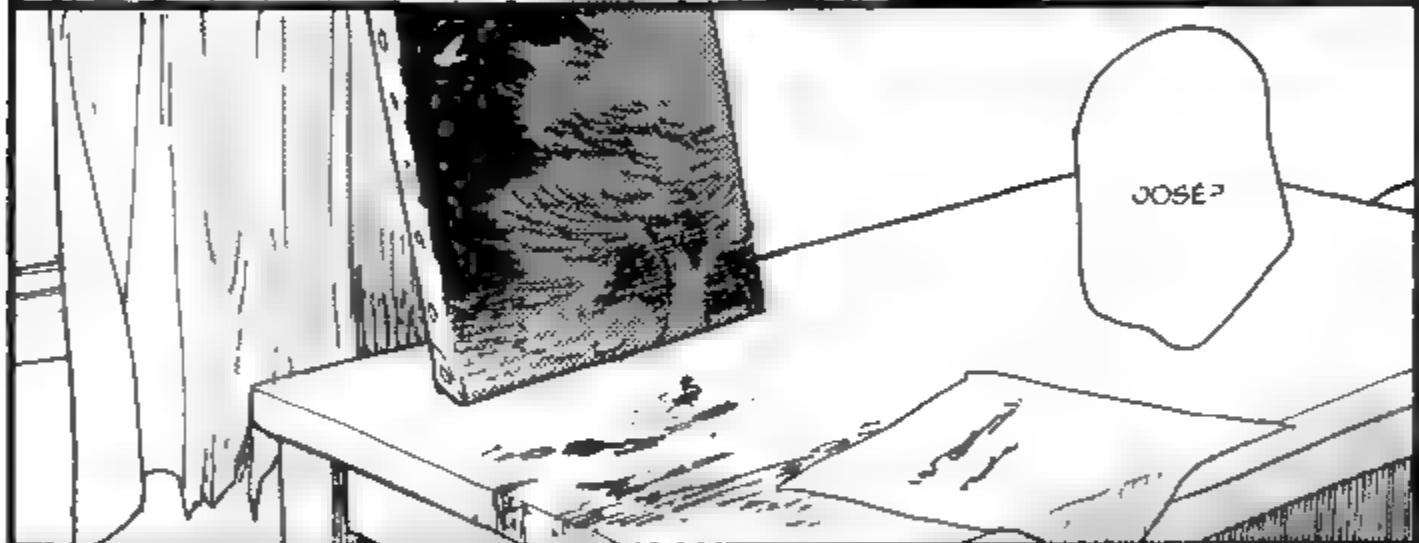
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THE  
PLACEMENT OF  
THE YELLOW  
FLOWER ?



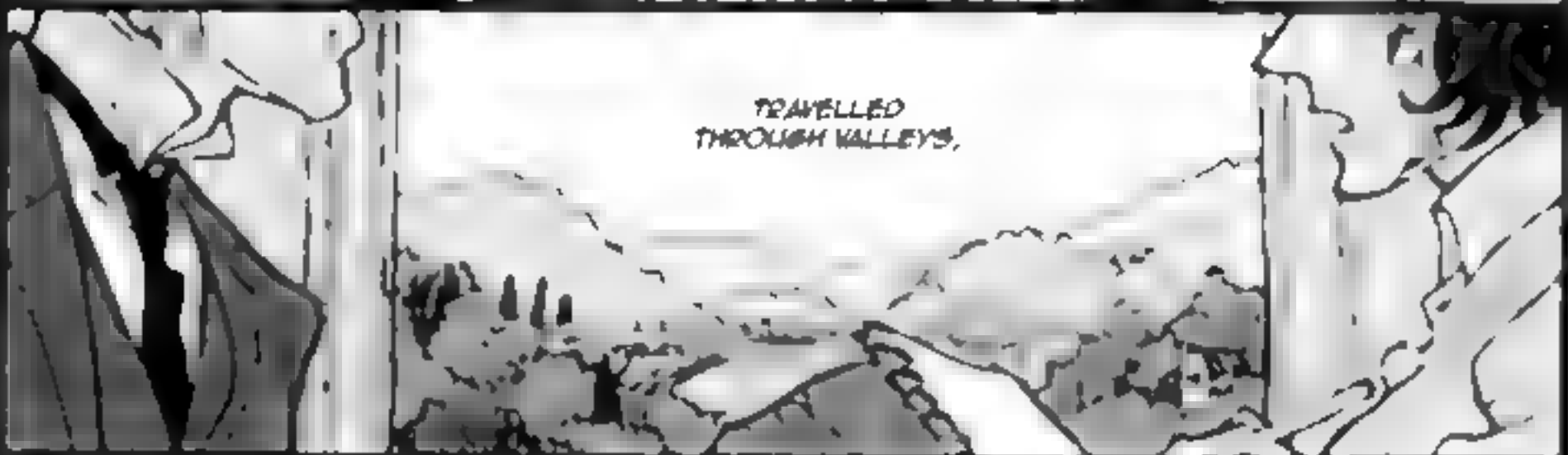
I AM  
GOING TO  
GO CHECK IT  
OUT PLEASE  
LET ME  
BORROW IT

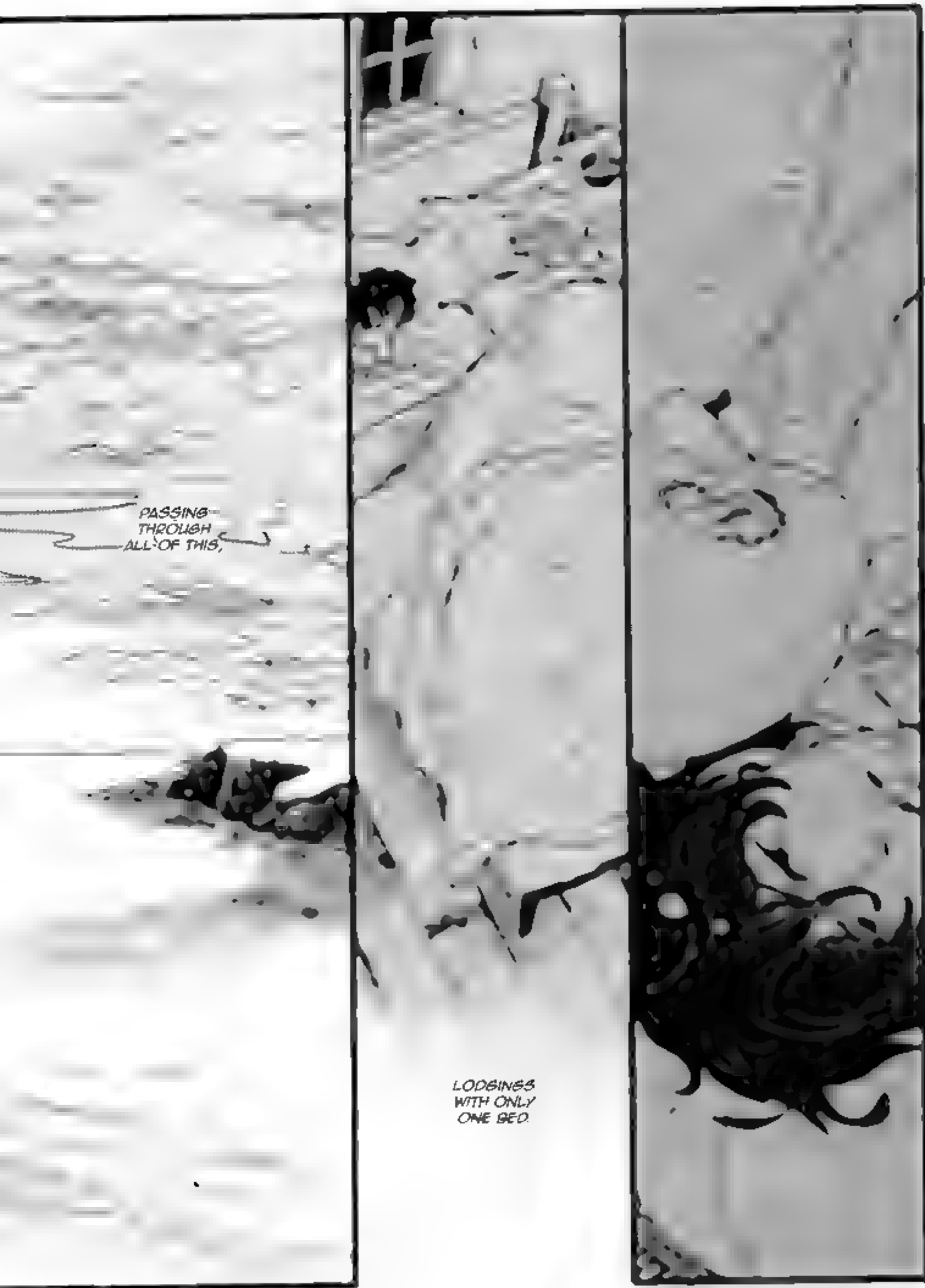






AT THE PLATE  
I WAS WITH AND  
RAISED,






PASSING  
THROUGH  
ALL OF THIS,

LODGINGS  
WITH ONLY  
ONE BED.

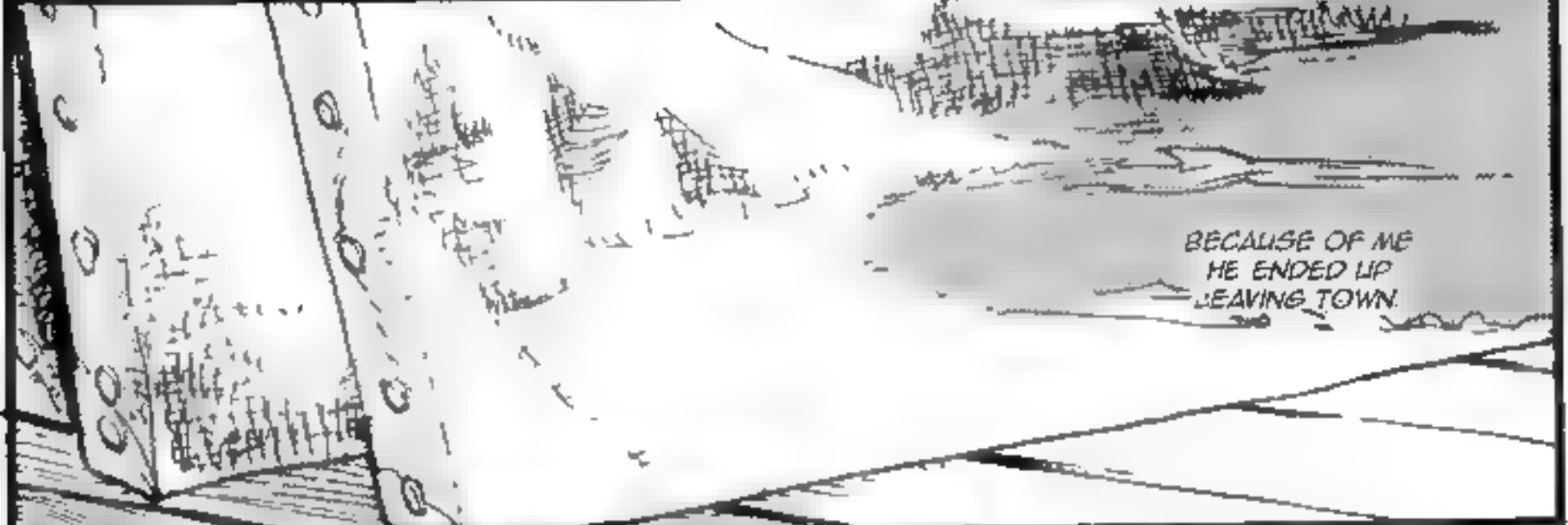


The Landscape Painter and  
the Portrait Painter





WE HAVE BEEN  
SIDE BY SIDE  
FOR 3 YEARS  
SINCE THEN.




BECAUSE OF ME  
HE ENDED UP  
LEAVING TOWN.

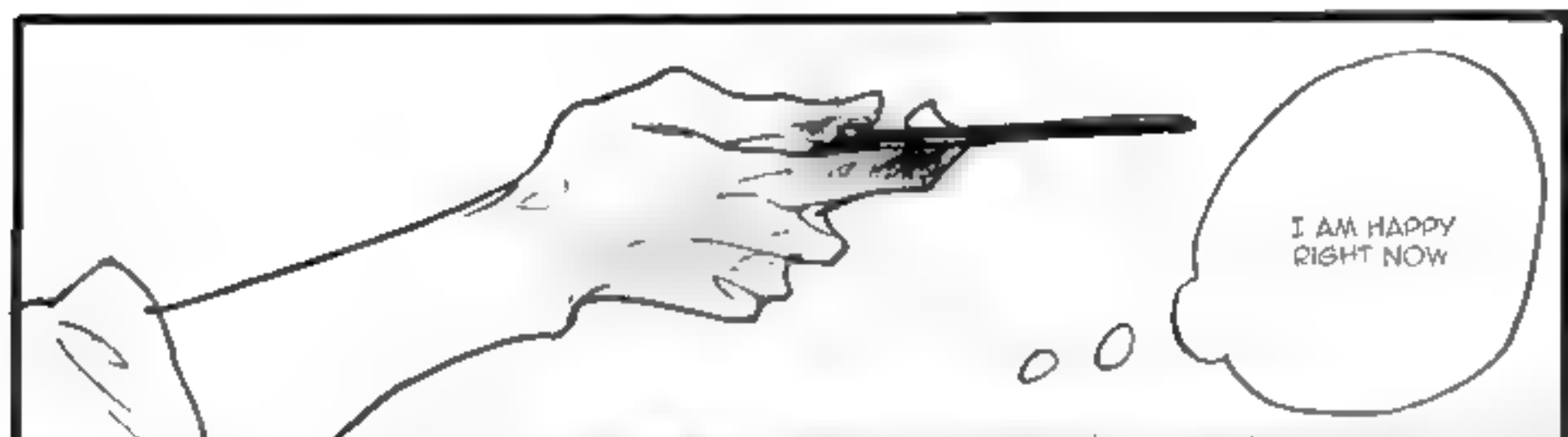


BUT THAT'S  
PROBABLY,

HE HAS NOT  
COMPLAINED  
ONCE



PROBABLY  
BECAUSE HE  
CAN DRAW AS  
MUCH AS HE  
WANTS.



I AM HAPPY  
RIGHT NOW



Push



I CAN'T  
SEE.

I CAN'T THROW  
FOWL WORDS  
OR STONES AT  
HIM HERE

AH.

THE SKY IS  
TOO DARK.

THIS IS MORE  
THAN ENOUGH  
FOR ME.

ISN'T THE  
SEA ALSO  
GOOD?

ARTHUR,  
LATELY YOU  
HAVE BEEN  
DRAWING ME  
A LOT




THE SEA IS  
BEAUTIFUL WHEN  
IT CLEARS UP,  
BUT IT'S TOO  
DAZZLING  
FOR ME



THIS  
LIFESTYLE,  
HOWEVER,


MY EYE COLOR  
IS TOO LIGHT,

SO IT HURTS.



I'LL  
LOOK AT YOUR  
PICTURES ON A  
CLEAR DAY

BUT THAT'S  
ALRIGHT



FOR THIS  
MAN IN FRONT OF ME,  
WITH EYES LIKE THE SEA  
AND HAIR LIKE THE SUN,

EVEN  
IF SOLD, I  
CAN SIMPLY  
DRAW THEM  
AGAIN.

SO, PLEASE  
DON'T SELL  
THEM ALL.



CLATTER

AH

THAT  
MUST BE  
HEMMEL



WELL,  
HELLO  
THERE.



IT'S  
OPEN.

CLACK



WHUP

HAVE YOU  
FINISHED  
ANY NEW  
PAINTINGS?

AH, HAVE  
SOME TEA.

HERE.  
HURRY UP,  
TAKE THEM  
AND LEAVE.



SURELY IT IS  
NOT ENOUGH.

.. UHM,  
ARTHUR

KN  
OCK  
KN  
OCK







SOMEONE CALLED! CURTIS WON A PRIZE LAST MONTH WITH THIS PAINTING.

ISN'T THIS THE PORTRAIT OF WILL YOU PAINTED DURING THE SUMMER?



SO, IT'S JOSÉ'S PAINTING

HUH?



AH, THAT'S MY PEN NAME



SO, THE PRIZE.



CONGRATULATIONS!





RECENTLY, I WAS HAPPY  
HE COULD DRAW.

I WAS  
ABLE TO  
TEACH HIM  
VARIOUS  
THINGS

WITH THIS YOU  
HAVE BECOME A  
FULL-FLEDGED  
PAINTER

HE  
COULD  
MAKE A  
PROFIT  
SELLING  
THEM.

IT'S  
ALREADY  
BEEN 3  
YEARS

THE PAINTING  
YOU GAVE ME A  
WHILE BACK HAS  
BECOME A FAMILY  
TREASURE.

SINCE YOU  
TWO SUDDENLY  
CAME TO THIS  
VILLAGE

THAT'S  
AMAZING!

glance

HAVE  
YOU SEEN  
ARTHUR?

IF THEY  
DON'T SELL  
THEY'LL BE  
PUT NEARBY  
AND I CAN  
ADJUDGE THEM  
ANY TIME

SCRATCH

GLANCE

EXCUSE  
ME



SOON,  
IT WILL BE  
TIME









YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND.

IT'S STILL  
EARLY

THAT ART  
DEALER..

DON'T  
TAKE THE ART  
DEALER TOO  
SERIOUSLY.

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO REPLY  
IMMEDIATELY.



YOU'LL  
BE TAKEN  
ADVANTAGE  
OF

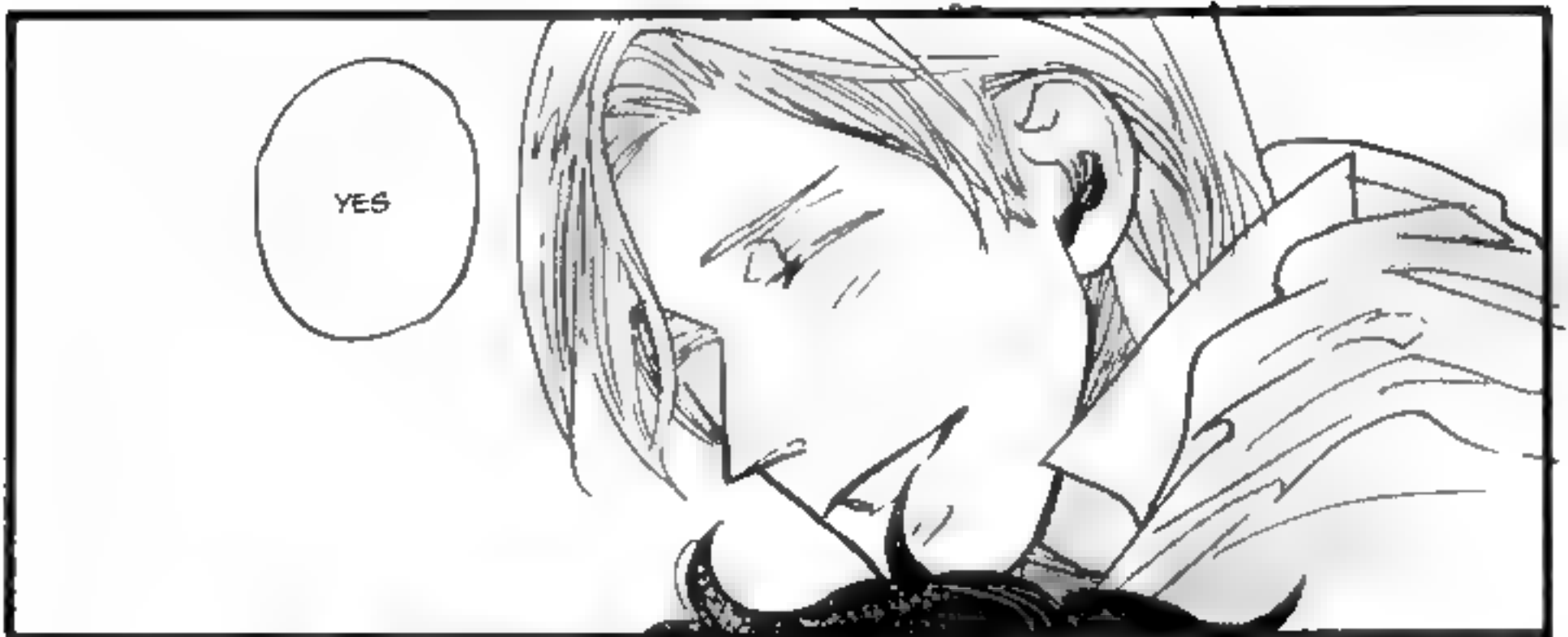
MAKE  
PORTRAITS  
YOUR STRONG  
SUIT AS WELL.

HE ONLY  
WANTS TO  
FILL HIS OWN  
POCKETS.



SO THAT  
I CAN ACCEPT  
YOUR GOOD  
WORK

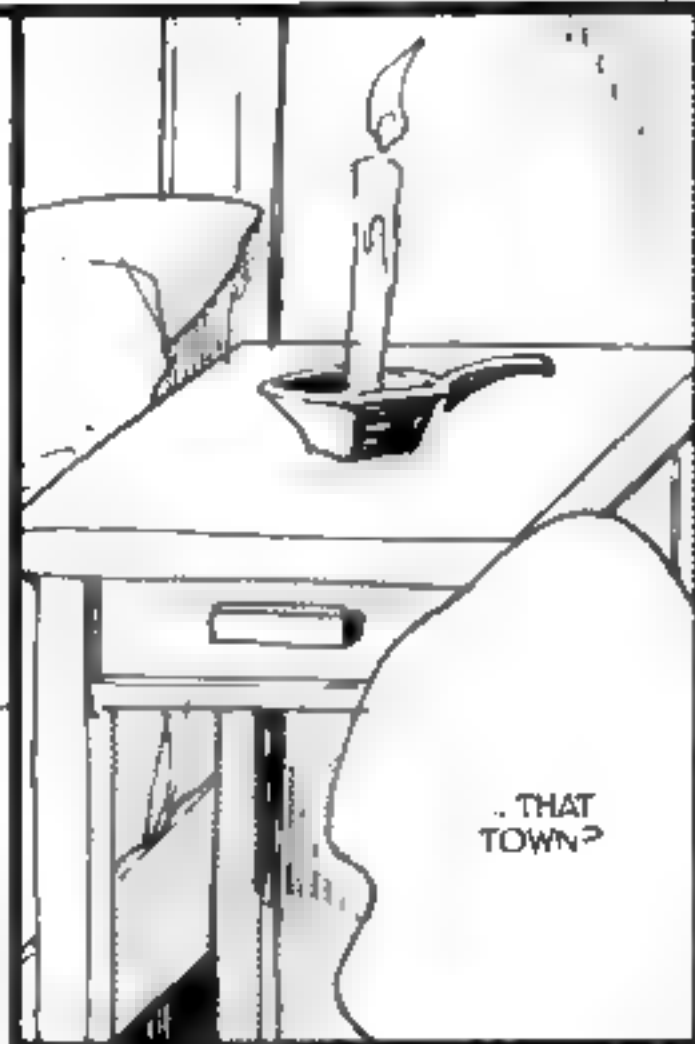








THE ONLY  
ONE I WANT TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE  
ME IS YOU!



.. THAT  
TOWN?



EVEN YOUR  
FAMILY



GO  
HOME



NO,  
WHY?




flicker



..WHY?




GRAB




YOU THOUGHT  
YOU COULD RUN  
AWAY ALONE

WHY DO YOU  
THINK I CAME  
WITH YOU?




WHY DO YOU  
THINK I USED A  
PEN NAME?



I DON'T  
KNOW.



THINK.



I DON'T KNOW,  
IT'S ALREADY  
ENOUGH



THREE  
YEARS  
AGO,



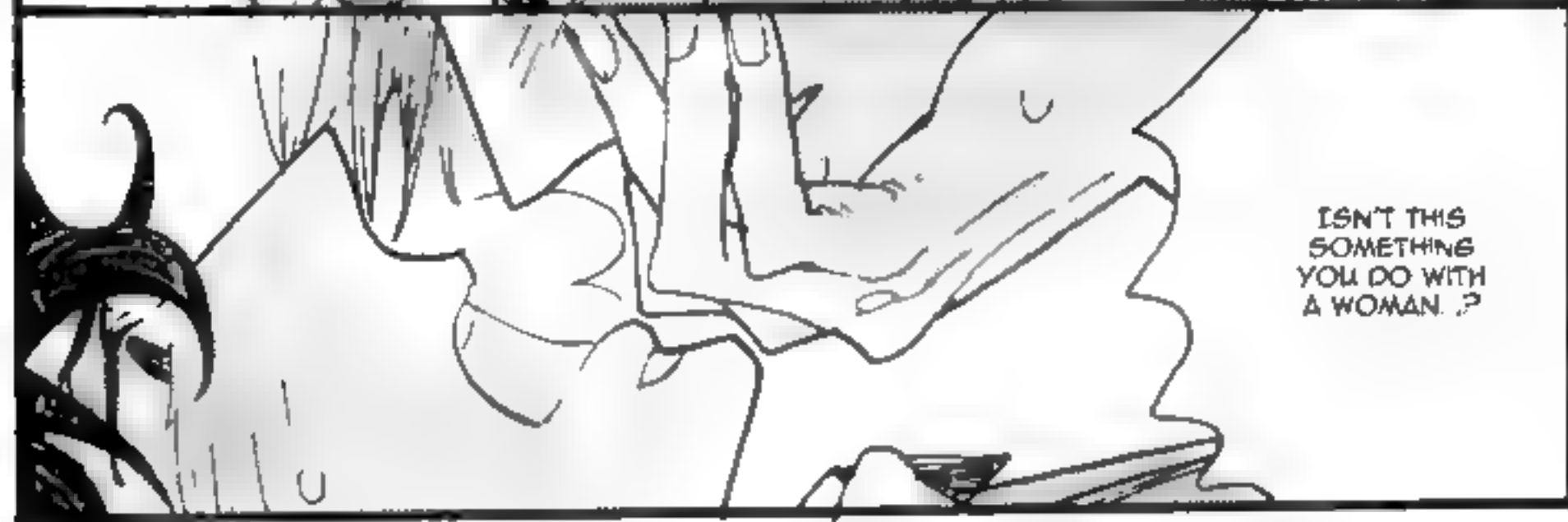
WISHING  
YOU'D BE HERE  
FOREVER

WISHING  
FOR MORE



ARTHUR,

I'LL BE HERE  
FOREVER







IF WINNING  
THE PRIZE  
BROUGHT  
ME A BIT  
CLOSER  
TO YOU,

I WANTED  
TO CONVEY MY  
FEELINGS



B-  
BUT..



..ARTHUR  
DO YOU NOT  
LIKE ME?



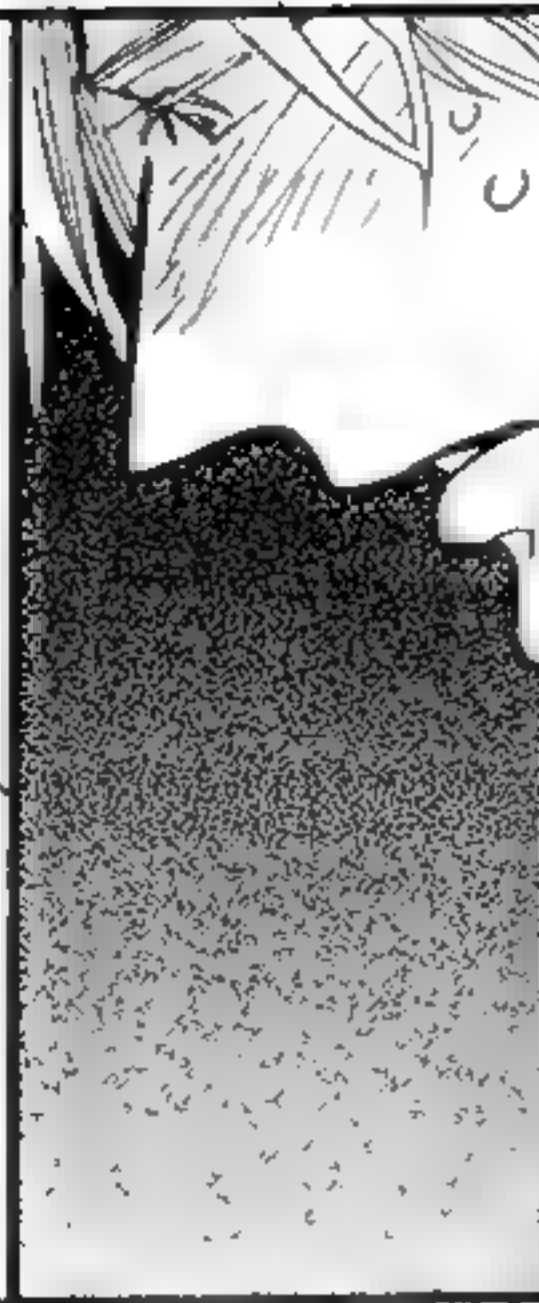
I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND..

I LIKE  
YOU,  
BUT

BUT..



WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?  
I'VE NEVER  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT



SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS



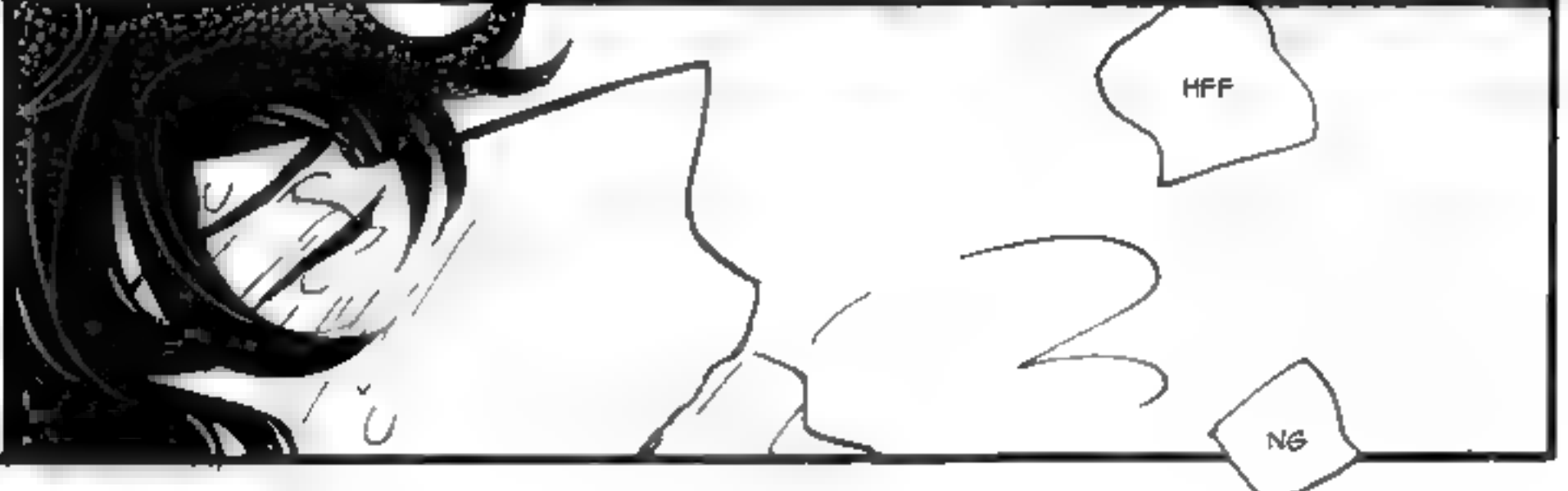
BUT, I AM  
SORRY,

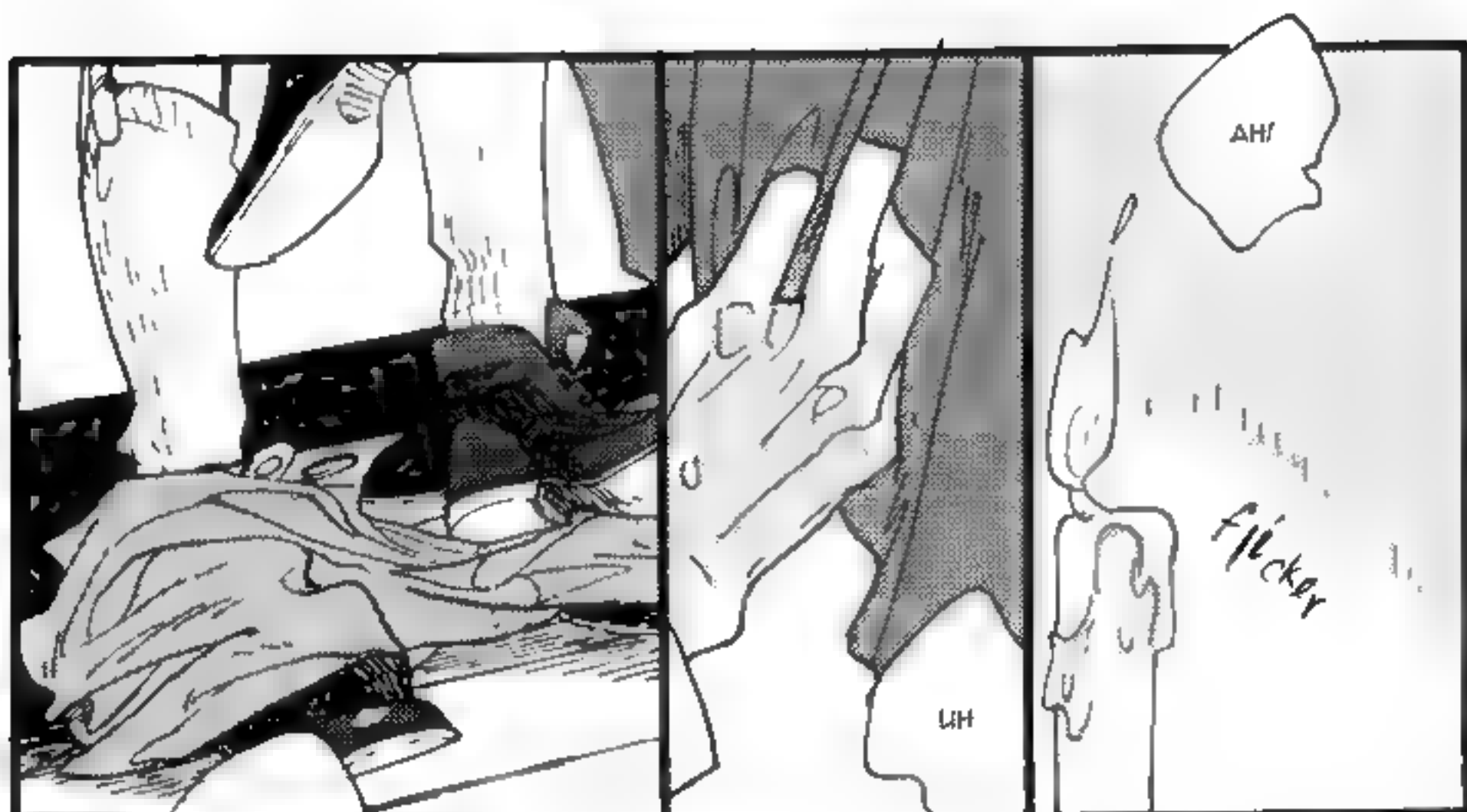


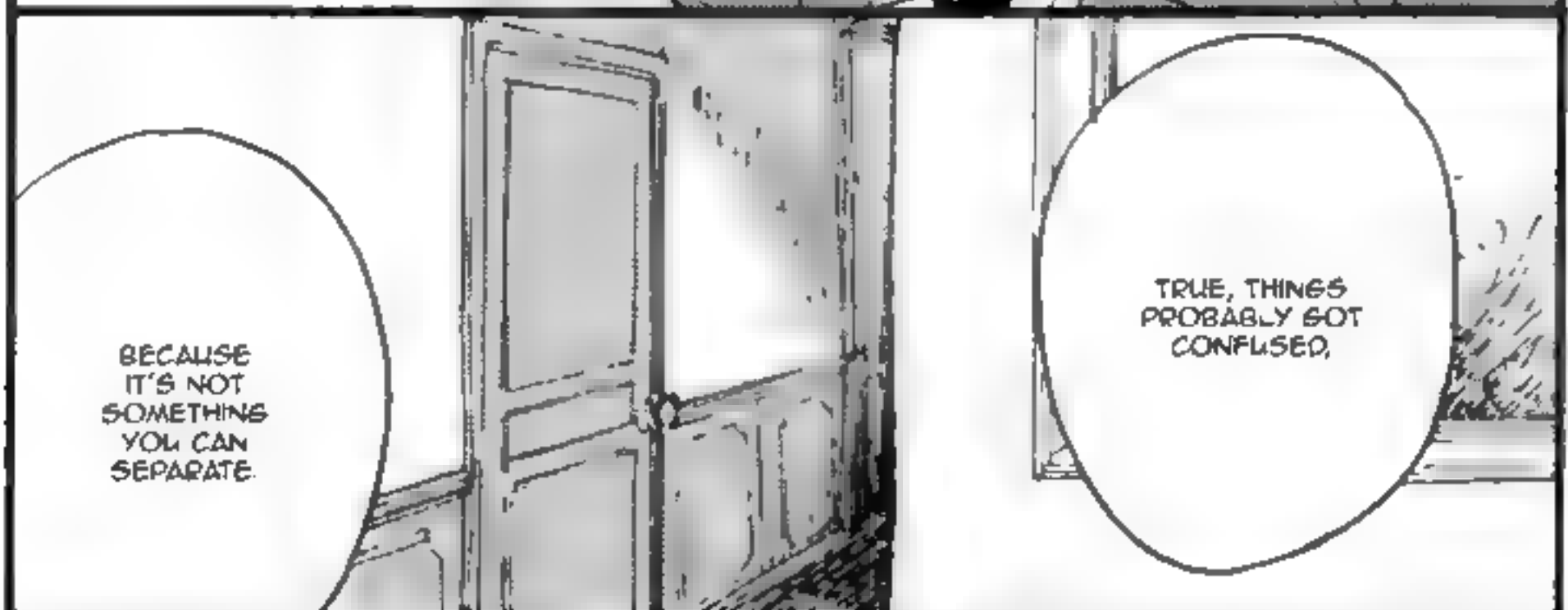
I ALSO LIKE  
YOUR STOIC  
MANNER,



I CAN'T  
HOLD BACK  
ANYMORE

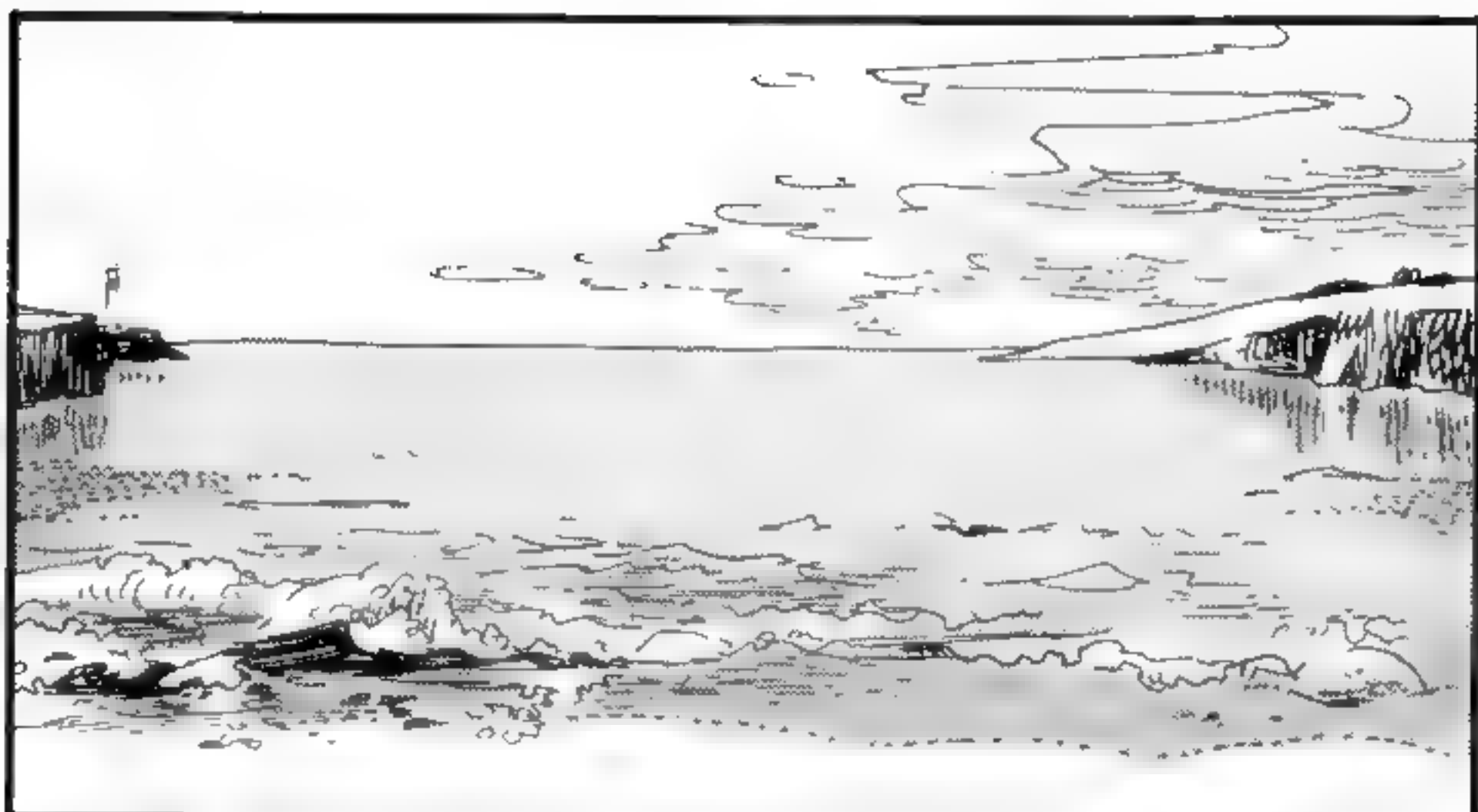




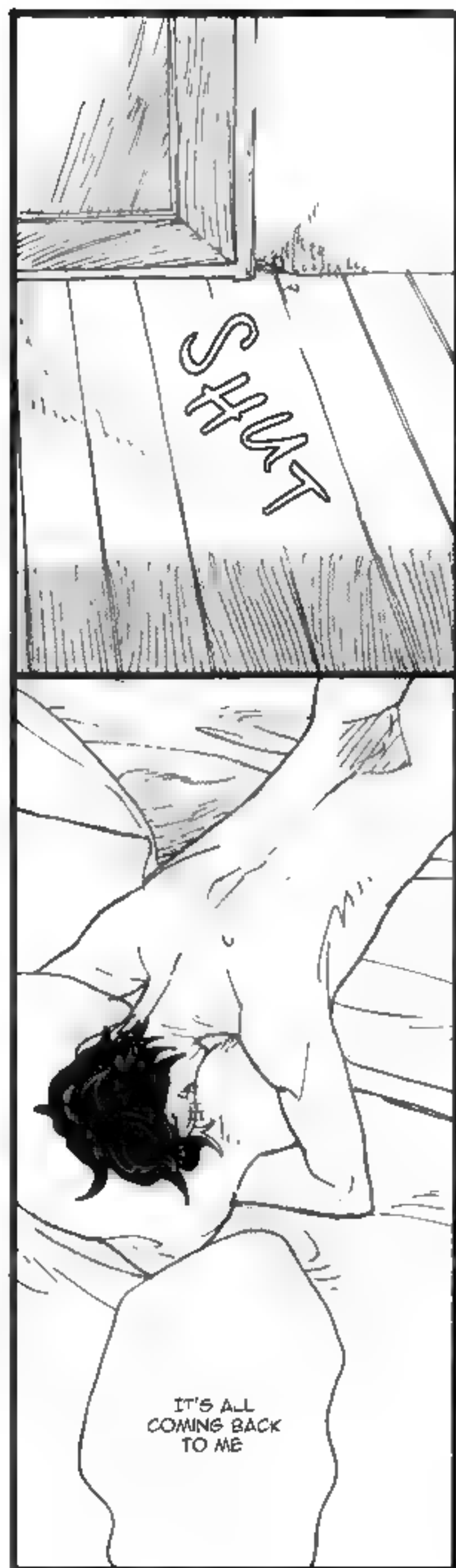


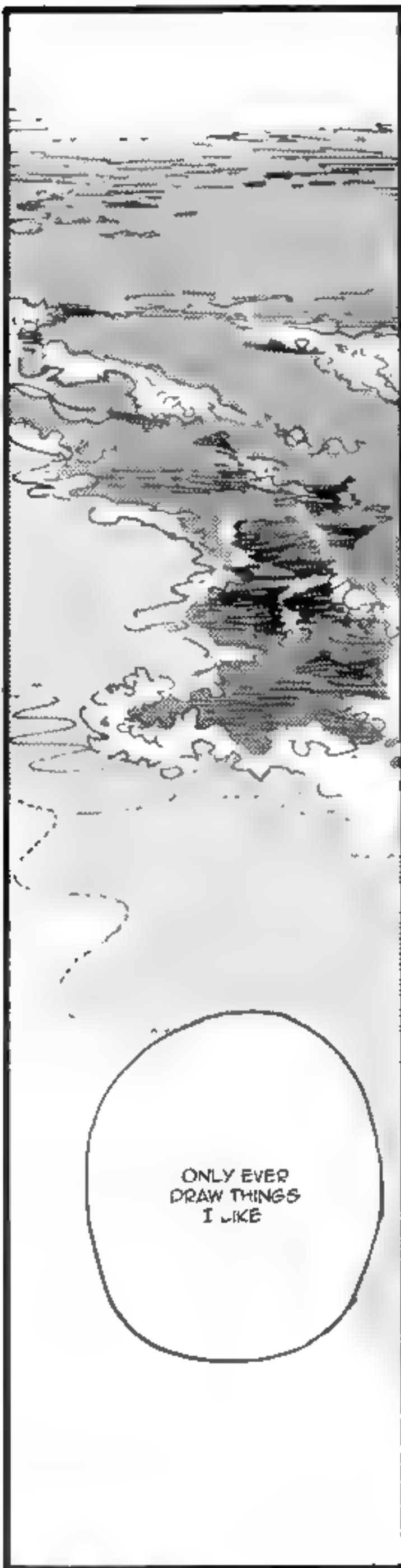




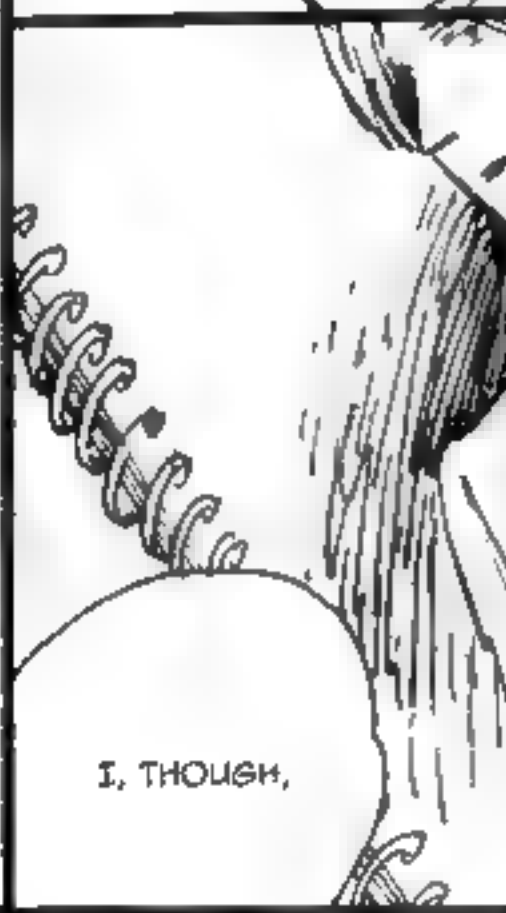








ONLY EVER  
DRAW THINGS  
I LIKE



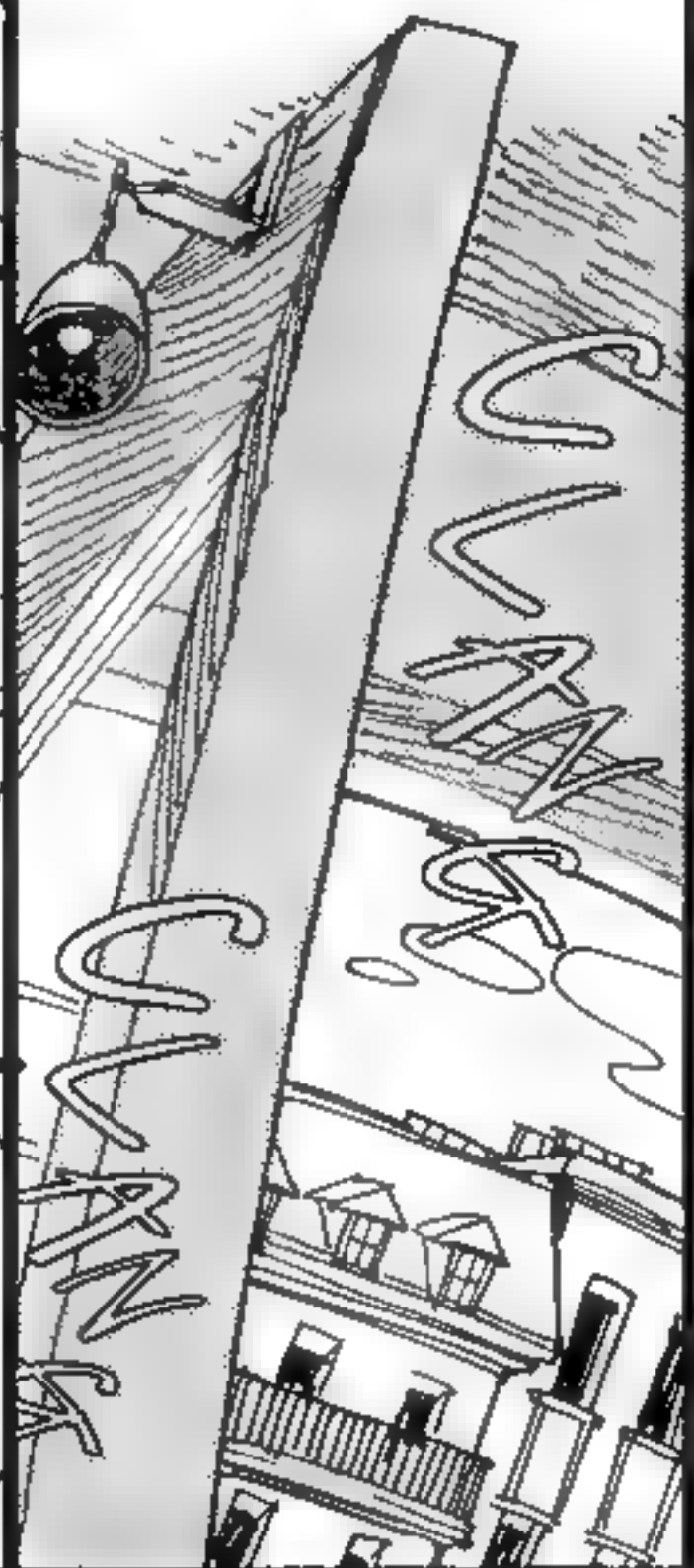
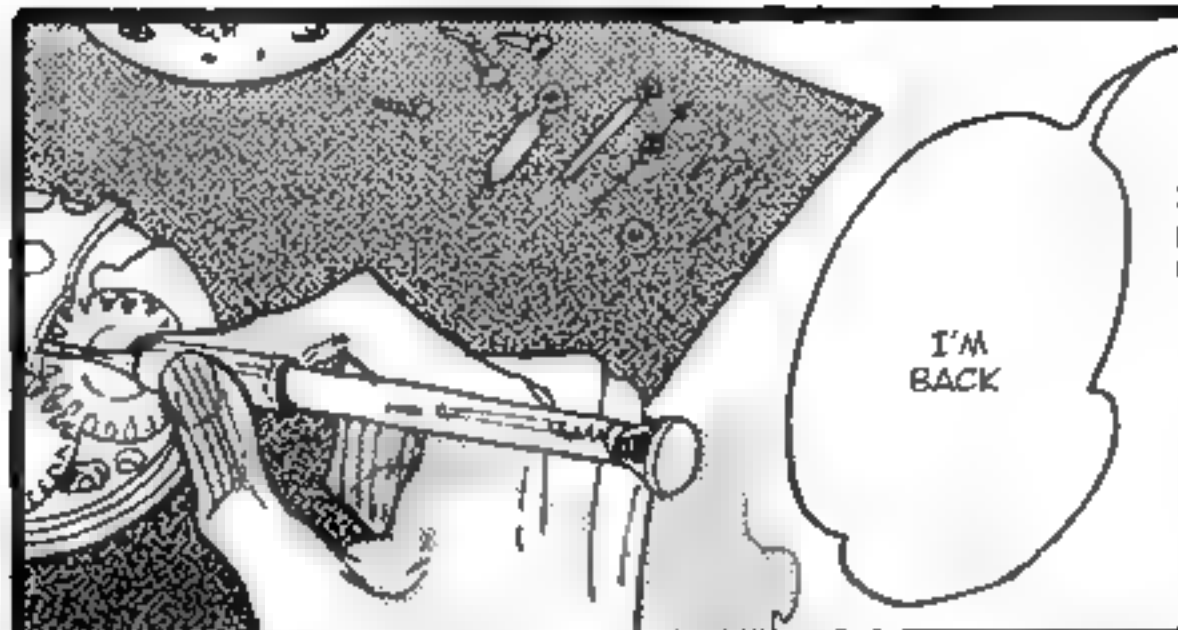
I, THOUGH,



JOSÉ LIKES  
PEOPLE AND  
THIS SHOWS IN  
HIS PAINTINGS

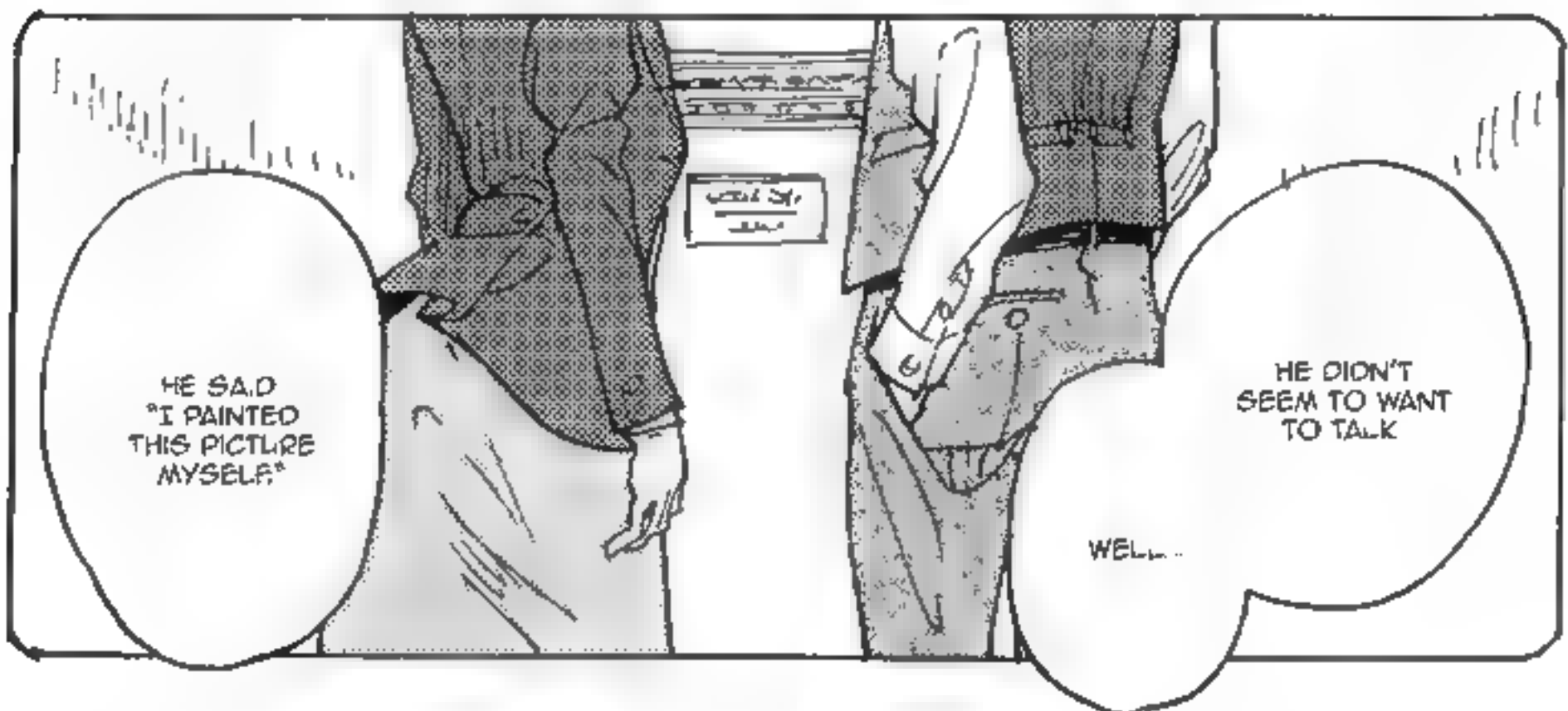
I ALSO  
FELL IN LOVE  
WITH THE WAY  
HE DRAWS



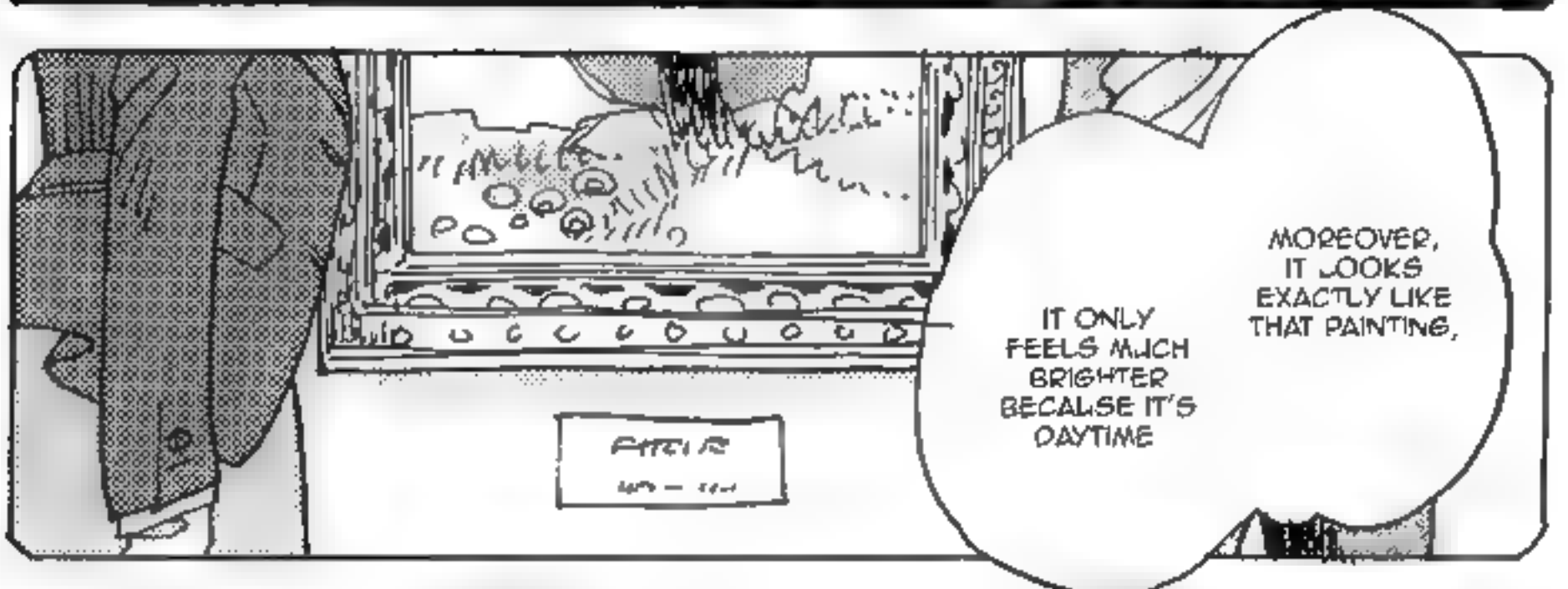






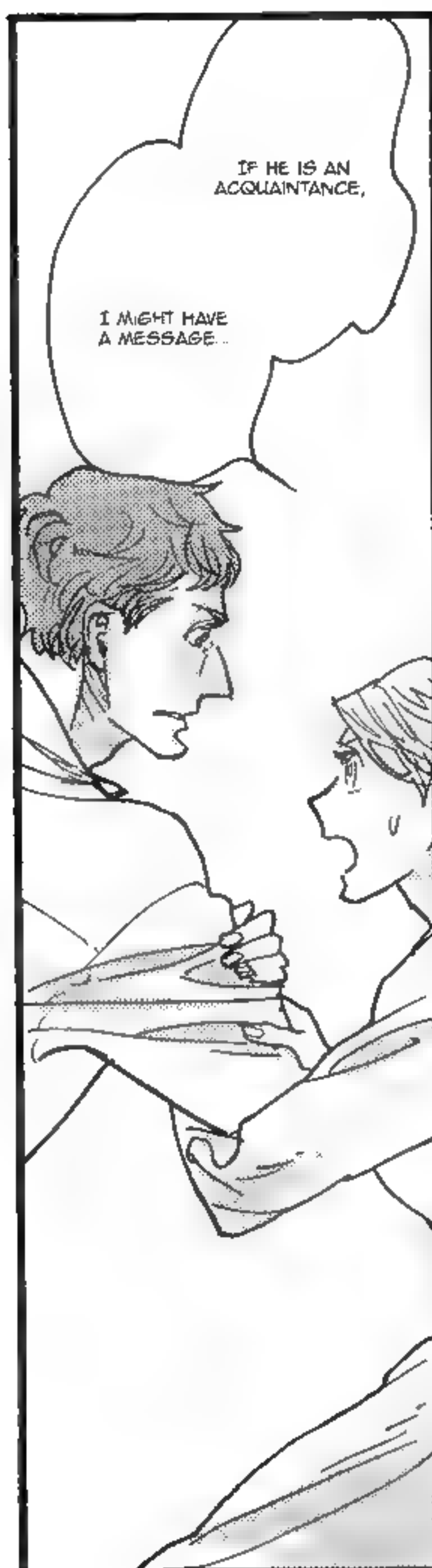












IF HE IS AN  
ACQUAINTANCE,

I MIGHT HAVE  
A MESSAGE...



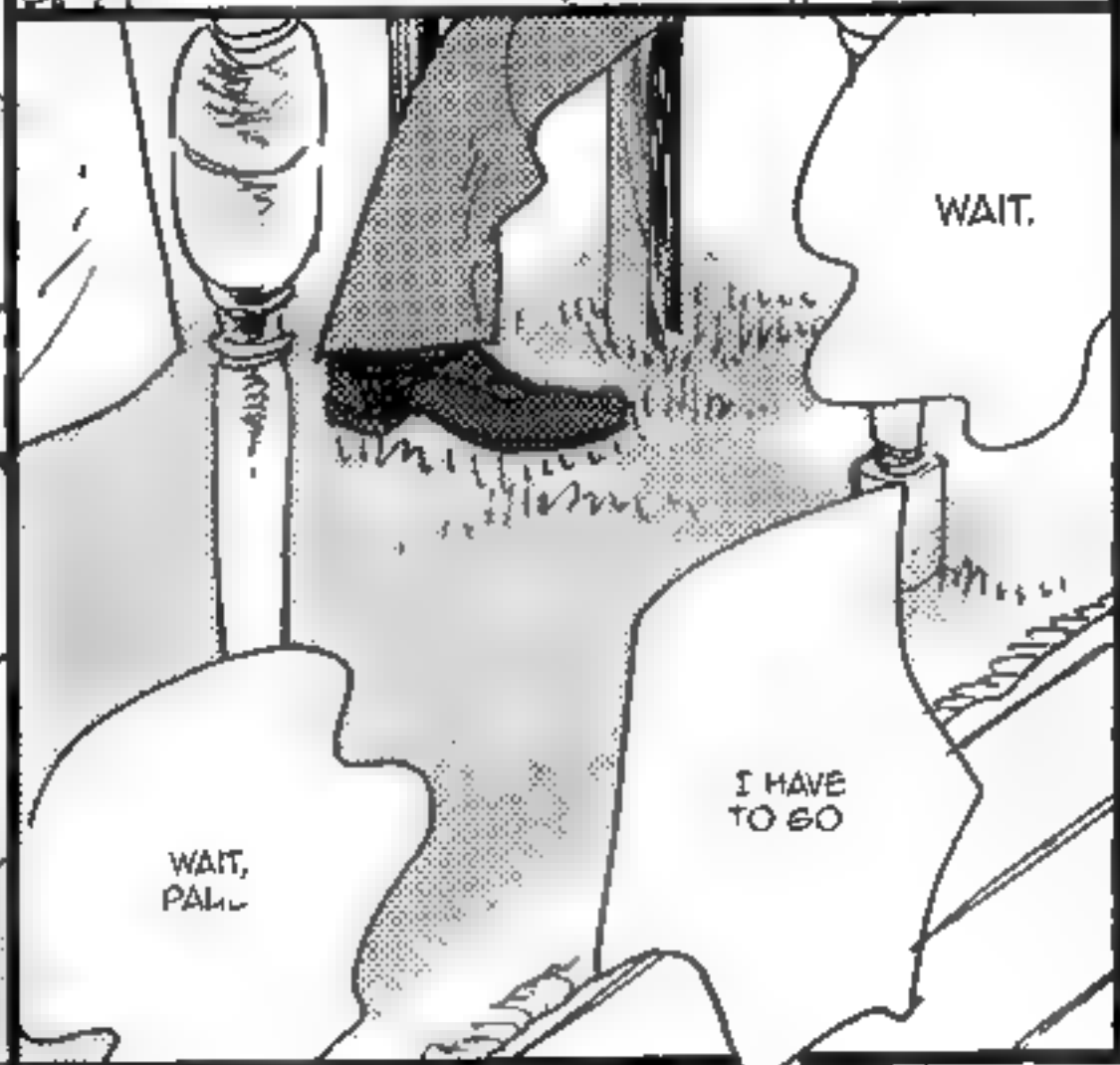
EHP NO,  
THE NAME  
WAS.

That  
wasn't it...

WHERE?



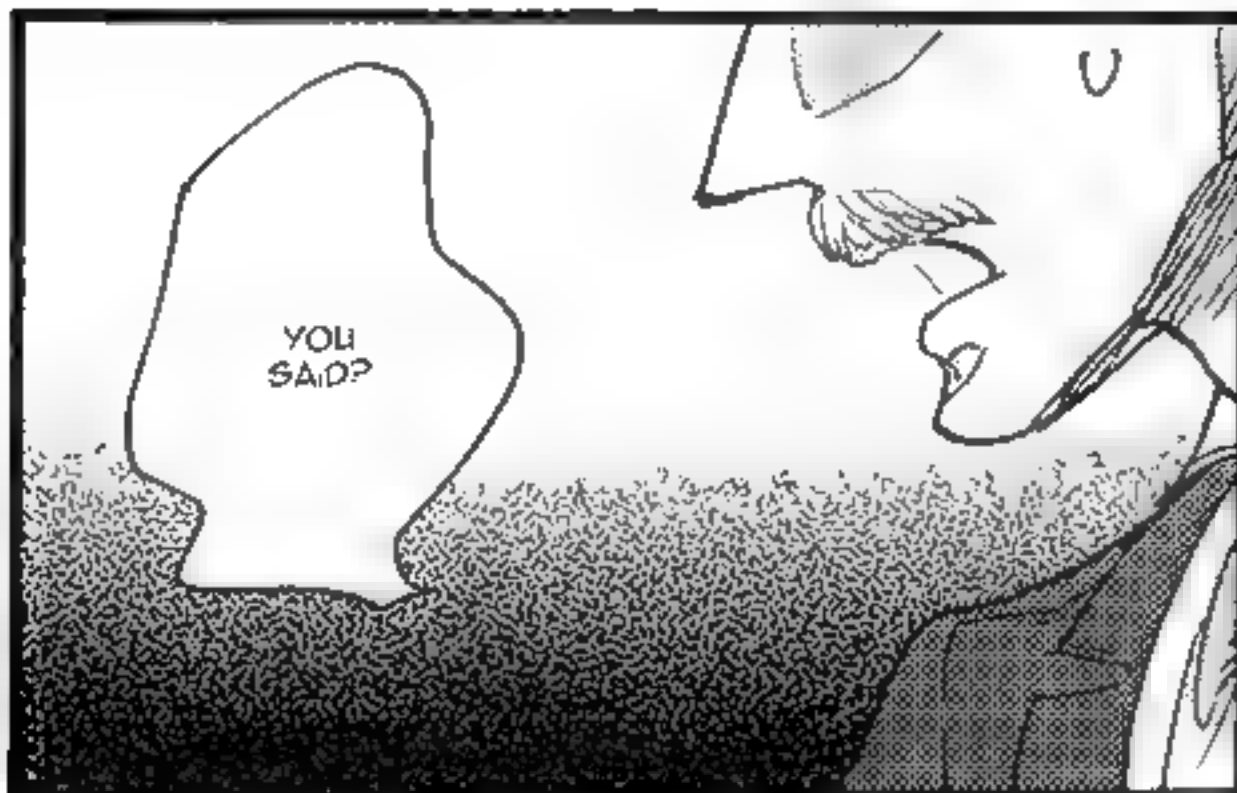
WHERE S THAT  
GALLERY?



WAIT.

I HAVE  
TO GO

WAIT,  
PAL



YOU  
SAID?



WHEN YOU HAVE  
FINALLY FOUND  
PAUL?



I MIGHT HAVE  
FOUND HIM.



"I'LL  
COME BACK  
HERE AGAIN  
NEXT YEAR"

THAT'S  
ALL...





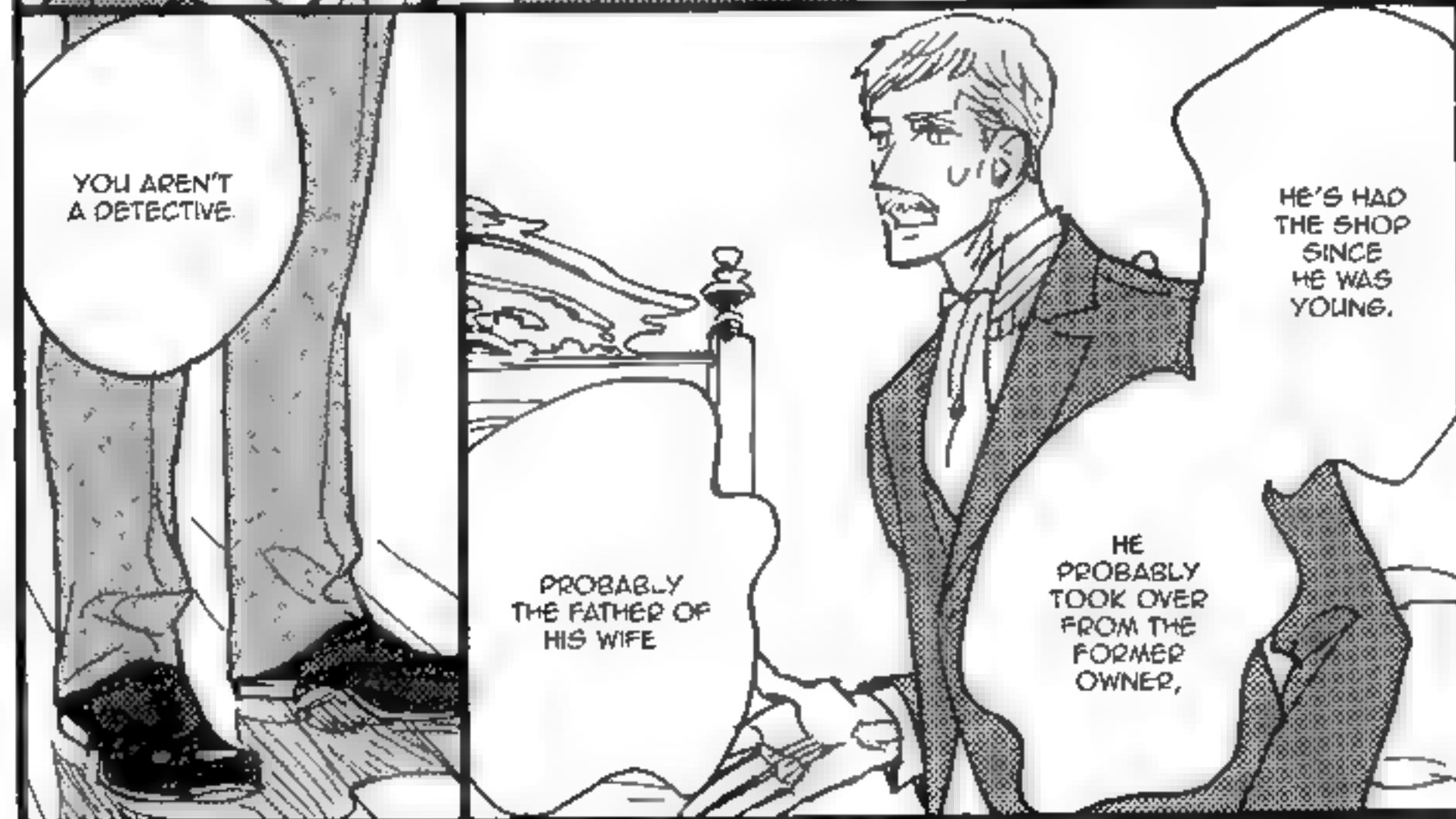
I DIDN'T  
ASK

WHERE  
HE MIGHT BE  
LIVING,



WELL,  
THERE IS

A CLOCK  
REPAIR SHOP  
WITH "A VERY  
SIMILAR  
PAINTING"

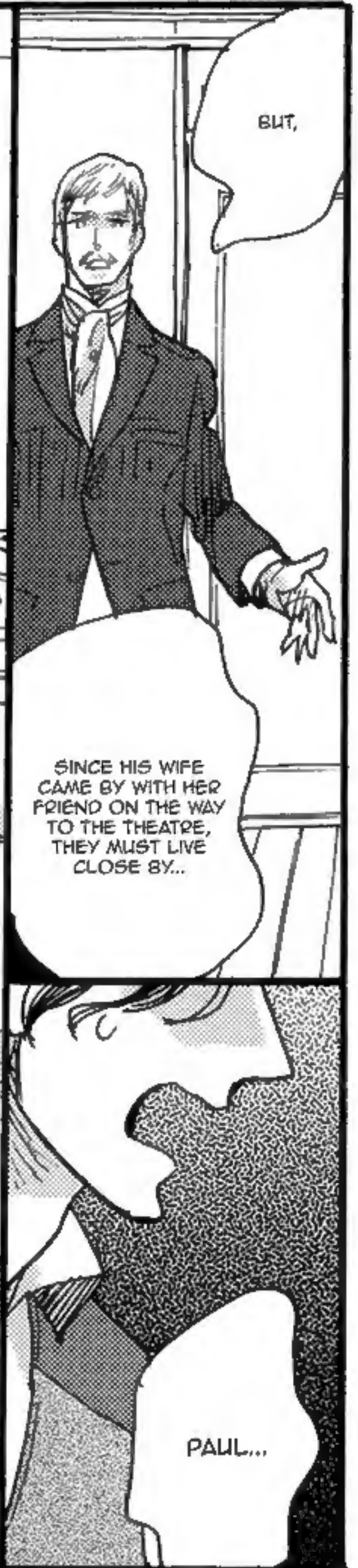


YOU AREN'T  
A DETECTIVE

HE'S HAD  
THE SHOP  
SINCE  
HE WAS  
YOUNG.

PROBABLY  
THE FATHER OF  
HIS WIFE

HE  
PROBABLY  
TOOK OVER  
FROM THE  
FORMER  
OWNER,



PROBABLY...

BUT,

SINCE HIS WIFE  
CAME BY WITH HER  
FRIEND ON THE WAY  
TO THE THEATRE,  
THEY MUST LIVE  
CLOSE BY...

WOULDN'T WANT  
TO SEE ME.

PAUL...





UH.

HE HUNG YOUR  
PAINTING IN A  
PLACE HE SEES  
EVERYDAY.

HEY.

ARTHUR.

LET'S  
LOOK  
FOR HIM,

AND  
MEET HIM.

THERE IS  
NO WAY HE  
DOES NOT  
WANT TO  
MEET YOU.



I have never written stories like "The Bird that Can't Sing" and "The Landscape Painter and the Portrait Painter", that are set abroad before. It's the flight of Arthur, whose situation due to nasty rumors about his family becomes worse and worse, and José, who thereafter due to a family curse wears a beard. I felt sorry for Paul, so I wrote this story. Arthur was probably Paul's first love, but without realising this, he found a cute wife and lives happily. That's the most important thing.

Thank you for reading this far. I hope you enjoyed it.  
I would also like to thank my editor, the designer and all the staff.

草間 さかえ  
Kusama Sakae

## 初出一覧

夜更けに花降る	Chara 8月号 ('12)
小夜啼鳥の夜	Chara Collection 2012 ('12)
明け方に止む雨	Chara 10月号 ('13)
少し戻って	描き下ろし
歌わない鳥	Chara 10月号 ('10)
風景画家と肖像画家	Chara 12月号 ('10)
鳥と木	描き下ろし
あとがき	描き下ろし

この本を読んでのご意見・ご感想を編集部までお寄せください。

〔あて先〕

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**Chara**  
COMICS

## 明け方に止む雨

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